

Thursday August 1 1996

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Michael Collins: hero or traitor?

The return of Michael Collins

G2 with European weather

Caroline Sullivan meets Lady Alice and Mella

The aristocrat and the armed robber

G2, pages 4/5

OnLine

A byte at the opera

G2, pages 10/11

Libel jury clean bowls 'astonished' Botham



Imran Khan and his wife, Jemima, leaving the High Court yesterday after the jury held he had not libelled former England cricketers Botham and Lamb

Matthew Engel reports on a second defeat, before the High Court, for English cricket

THE cricketing celebrity Ian Botham was last night facing, if not quite ruin, then at least a severe blow to his former Pakistan captain Imran Khan.



'How can one regret it? I fought for my dignity and honesty... But life goes on. I will just have to do a couple more roadshows to pay for it.'

Ian Botham



'I tried to clear my name, and this is what you get. It is going to leave a cloud but you have to accept what the jury say, but I'm astonished by the jury'

Allan Lamb

Botham said he was "astonished" by the verdict, a view shared by many observers. Speculation during the jury's 4 1/2 hour deliberation centred only on the damages award.

making his final speech on Goldsmith's daughter Jemima. Botham and Lamb, observing the best cricketing traditions, accepted the umpire's decision with as much grace as they could manage.

no jacket, a shirt with a sponsor's name and carrying a boot whose significance the judge never allowed him to explain.

Imran's attempts to prove Botham had cheated by picking the seam or gouging a cricket ball failed utterly when his videos from 14-year-old Test matches purporting to prove this were adopted by Botham's own counsel, Charles Gray QC, and classed as doctored.

Imran made no attempt to defend the suggestions that Botham and Lamb were racist or lacked class. He claimed he had been misquoted.

Cherie relishes new role in blitz of big ideas, bikers, faxes — and knitting patterns

IT COULD hardly be more New Labour, with articles on How To Lay Your Own Patio and Secrets Of A Herb Garden. But Britain's top-selling women's magazine became even more ideologically correct when the guest editor took her chair.

Cherie Booth, barrister wife of Labour leader Tony Blair, has helped to edit October's 10th birthday edition of Prima, the knitting and cooking journal, and contributed to the design of a sweater. She was "absolutely amazing", said Lindsay Nicholson, full-time editor of the magazine, which does not forget its less fortunate readers.

"She'd pop into our offices straight from court, then go to meetings with clients," said Ms Nicholson. "We were in constant contact and would regularly fax and bike over pictures and suggestions."

Pressed on whether Ms Booth might have a promising future in publishing, Ms Nicholson said: "She'd make a better editor than I would a lawyer. Working with her was a very humbling experience. She made lots of very practical suggestions."

Inside Britain
John Birt, the BBC director general, was accused today of misjudgment for a cabinet of ministers over planned changes to the World Service.

World News
At Pyzhanan, the normal the side of Bob Dole, Republican presidential candidate, urged an alternative approach to the platform.

Finance
Almost 2,000 jobs will be created in the North of England following Brussels decision to award £20 million to towns hit by steel closures.

Sport
Britain won silver at yachting and bronze at cycling to take the Olympic medal tally to 11, and a tennis silver is guaranteed.

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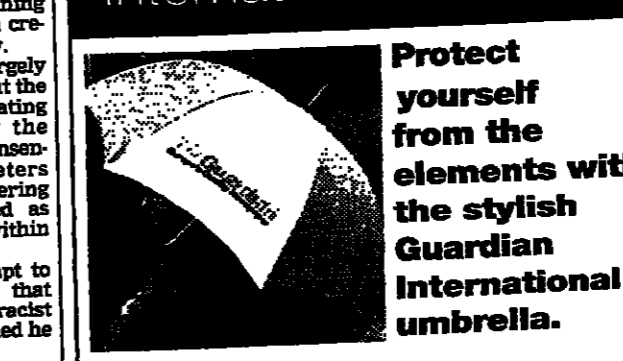
Alan Travis and John Arlidge

MINISTERS and the police last night moved to disown six Conservative MPs who came out against a ban on the private ownership of handguns in the wake of the Dunblane massacre.



ton, David Ashby (Leicestershire NW), Walter Sweeney (Vale of Glamorgan), Dame Jill Knight (Edinburgh), Warren Hawkinsley (Halesowen and Stourbridge) and John Greenway (Ryedale) — were inundated with protests after the Sun newspaper printed their telephone numbers.

The Guardian International Umbrella



This large blue and white golfing umbrella features a fox frame and wooden handle, £19.50. Price includes postage, packing and handling charges.

Please send me Guardian International umbrella/s at £19.50; cost £... I enclose a cheque/money order for the sum of £... or please debit my Visa/Mastercard account.
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Police confirm Centennial Park security guard who raised alarm is the key suspect in Atlanta blast

FBI scours the home of Olympics bomb 'hero'

John Duncan in Atlanta

THE lawyer representing Richard Jewell, the security guard at the centre of the FBI's investigation into the Olympic Centennial Park bombing, yesterday conceded that his client was a key suspect in the case.

Federal agents moved into Mr Jewell's apartment during the day to begin an intensive search.

"If they are searching the place then he is a suspect," the lawyer, Watson Bryant, said after arriving at the scene an hour after three police officers were let into the flat by Mr Jewell's mother.

Mr Jewell was hailed as a hero after he alerted police to a knapsack containing the pipe bomb packed with screws and nails at Centennial Park, where the blast spread blood and terror at a packed rock concert.

Yesterday, FBI and ATF (Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms) agents backed up by a bomb-sniffing dog, combed the flat and also towed away Mr Jewell's blue pick-up truck for forensic examination.

Several boxes were taken away from the flat, along with what seemed to be laundry in a clear plastic bag.

It appeared that further "evidence" was going to be removed from the flat during late afternoon.

A white van was stationed outside the door to Mr Jewell's apartment with its rear doors open. Officers also erected a tent to protect evidence from a rainstorm.

At the outset of the search, residents of the apartment block and nearby buildings, including a woman in a bathrobe with three small children, were evacuated hurriedly by FBI men in blue fatigues. At one point most of the agents came out while the bomb-sniffing dog checked the apartment.

The FBI spokesman at the scene, David Tubbs, said the agency had a search warrant. But he stressed that the investigation was continuing.

Mr Jewell has not been placed under arrest and he has not been charged with any crime.

"We emphasise that neither the issuance of a search warrant nor the execution of it constitutes evidence of guilt."

A search warrant is an order of the court to search a particular location to determine if relevant evidence is present.

Since the weekend attack, he added, the FBI had gone through a list of many potential suspects and eliminated them in the hunt for the man responsible.

Mr Jewell, who says he is innocent, sat outside on an iron staircase, his back to the main cameramen, and his head in his hands. His mother and a pet dog left the apartment.

During the search, with which the suspect co-operated fully, according to the police, Mr Jewell was accompanied at all times by his lawyer.

Asked how Mr Jewell felt, his lawyer said: "He wants it over with. Search the place, look at it, find nothing, get out of my life."

Mr Jewell, a former police officer, worked at the park as a security man for the AT&T telecommunications company which has a pavilion in the entertainment area.

Mr Bryant said on Tuesday: "Richard had nothing whatsoever to do with planting that bomb. He had nothing to do with the bomb at all except being a hero by finding it, then getting people out of the way."

Before Tuesday, the FBI investigation had apparently focused on a white American male who made a warning call from a nearby public phone 15 minutes before the bomb detonated.



Richard Jewell, the Centennial Park security guard at the centre of the Atlanta bombing investigation. He says he was not involved

Scots air fury at McJock insults

John Arledge

NOT since Butcher Cumberland laid waste to Bonnie Prince Charlie's forces at Culloden 250 years ago has an Englishman excited such Highland wrath. Chris Evans, the millionaire Radio One presenter who abandoned London to present his breakfast show from Inverness this week, has been condemned as "a fly-by-night, willy-waving, lager lout posturing, English flash Harry".

After just three days north of the border, the creator of the television show, TFI Friday, has offended most of the local population, including his BBC colleagues. He has ridiculed farmers as "sheep shaggers", poked fun at financially-challenged local broadcasters and described the Highlands as a land of "rigs and pigs" where he hoped to "meet some tartan tottle and show them my tam-o-shanter".

Normally phlegmatic Invernessians, crofters and rival DJs are so outraged by the supercilious "sooth-moother" in their midst that they are campaigning to send him home. They have launched a fund-raising campaign via the Internet to fly Evans and his "zoo of sycophantic performing puppy cohorts" back to London.

Evans, who has just negotiated a £50,000 pay rise with the BBC, began his "Highland fling" on Monday by ridiculing the corporation's Highland headquarters as a "sheep pen ... I had to wind up the clockwork studio", he told his 7.5 million listeners.

His best McJock accent, the new laird of the airwaves taunted his local breakfast-time rival, Tich McCooney of Moray Firth Radio, Britain's local radio station of the year. He was a has-been who earned £10,000 a year less than Evans's research assistant, listeners heard.

Not to be outdone, McCooney, aged 40, abandoned the Highland capital and headed south to broadcast from London. His first guest? Evans's former girlfriend, Kim Wilde, who said she never listened to his Radio One show.

Yesterday Tom Morton, the BBC Scotland presenter and friend of McCooney, condemned his new studio neighbour as uncivilised. The "dishevelled and unshaven Charlie boy" was undoubtedly "a genius at the pinnacle of his pulling power for cash and adulation". But his McJocks were "needless, unfunny and insulting, surfacing like broken glass on a polished beach".

Evans had been due to appear on the Tom Morton show yesterday but he pulled out at the last minute. Highlanders are hoping they have heard the last of him. But his spokeswoman confirmed he was "off looking to buy a castle".

Everyone goes for gold in Games' News Event media scrum

Sketch

John Duncan

THREE news station helicopters hovered over a small respectable block of flats, set in a forest clearing off Buford Highway, a neighbourhood named after the six lane highway that runs through it, is nothing special. The suburban itself is laid out along the road, petrol stations, a 12 screen multiplex, a Papa John's restaurant. Along the road woods hide apartment blocks. It had never seen a media circus like this. Twenty yards from the stairway where Jewell sat for three hours among the

FBI men — their shirts pronouncing their role, Evidence Technician, Emergency Response Unit — were cameras from around the world: a news Olympics, with news teams ready to explode into action as sparkling as the opening ceremony of the real thing.

Chile was represented, as were Great Britain, Canada, French radio, Japanese radio, news agencies from everywhere, photographers too from all over, lenses trained like gun sights on the entrance to F Block of Jewell's Monaco Station apartment. The media marksmen waiting, chatting and joking, a convivial atmosphere that

everyone knew would be broken in an instant by Jewell's departure with the FBI.

The only impatience came from the crew of ECO, a Spanish language international news channel, whose reporters kept straying past an unmarked but well understood line on the tarmac. One whistle from a Bob Aliff, a world weary blue shirted Atlanta policeman, and they scampered off. Everyone else just waited. And waited.

The press had had Jewell in the autofocuses since Tuesday afternoon when the Atlanta Journal printed a special edition with the revelation, unofficial and unsubstantiated at the time, that he

was a prime suspect for the FBI. Since then they have been proved right.

But while Jewell has not been charged or brought to court, is this not something of a trial by media? This is not an issue here. "There is a court of law where you are innocent until proven guilty," said Wade Medlock, a reporter from WGST News radio who had been camped here since 2am. "But the court of public opinion may have a different way of doing things. Responsible journalists should not convict him before he has even been charged and we haven't but you can't say that this is not happening, and it is our job to report

what is going on and how the investigation is going."

The lone vigil of Medlock, who has had three hours sleep since the bomb went off on Friday night, contrasted with the NBC operation.

"We have four camera crews just in this car park," said Paul Crawley, a television news reporter for Channel 11, the local NBC station. "And one just outside to follow the car if the FBI take him in. We have pulled in crews from Florida, from Boston, from the network centre and all around."

Crawley too has hardly slept since the bomb. "We were working 13 hours on 12 hours off before the explosion

and I had come off shift 15 minutes before the blast and then got called back in."

The media had to be at the flat, it's the job. But Carlos Zapata didn't. A local resident, Zapata hung around with a group of other neighbours watching from behind the scrum. The atmosphere was more beach barbecue than news story. He had even brought a camera. "I really want to have this photo, to show everybody, show my kids."

Another local resident was selling soft drinks to newsmen at a very reasonable one dollar a throw. Like everything else though, to get one you had to wait. And wait.

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Whimsical, but not artless

Review

Adam Sweeting

Ron Sexsmith's debut album all year "and you could be listening to it for another 20" inevitably ended up plastered all over the promotional literature for Ron's South Bank showcase.

Ron's album is indeed a little treasure. His songs seem to have a lovable artlessness about them, as if they were puppies scampering up to have their ears tickled. The words are a mixture of melancholy, drollness and wonderment, sung by Sexsmith with ragged charm. He's keen not to be filled under "New Folk Revival" or some similar brainless pseudo-genre.

"There are folk elements in my music but if I play my songs on piano instead of guitar, you wouldn't even think of the word," he claims.

"You'd think 'pop music' ... " "As indeed you might. A piece like 'Summer Elowin' Town' could fit comfortably into the Costello-Nick Lowe tradition of rustic pop-rock, with its robust structure and chattering choruses. Lebanon, Tennessee is full of songwriters observation, with telling details picked out against the unhurried glide of the music — "I don't know anybody there, and nobody knows me ... Walk into a bar, take a seat in the corner, be a man of mystery."

The song's self-effacement seems to sum up Sexsmith, whose stage persona is that of a vague, unassuming guy who has accidentally wandered out onstage, and luckily happens to know a few songs. There's something claustrophobic about the cube-like structure of the Purcell Room, but the humble Sexsmith declared himself happy to be here. "It's a gorgeous room, I normally say," he said. "I know it's normally reserved for Gregarious chants."

Agreeable as the album is, it doesn't quite capture the whimsical charm of Sexsmith's live act, for which Sexsmith is accompanied by bassman Bill Bonk and drummer Don Kerr. This act is not quite as shambolic as it seems. Sexsmith has spent years gigging around the clubs of his Canadian homeland, and the slight hesitancy of his thumb-picked guitar playing can't mask the fact that he's really pretty slick. His voice, too, has considerable range and expression, though the way it wobbles around notes before landing on them disguises it.

Secret Heart and Speaking with the Angel stood out among the familiar material, while the best of a batch of new songs was a plaintive ballad played solo, its powerful melody ably supported by some crafty chord work. Maybe he should drop the Gordon Lightfoot covers if he really wants to dodge that "folk" tag, though pigeonholers would have been confounded by his thunderous encore of Stevie Wonder's I Was Made to Love Her. This guy has a future.

Six Tory MPs block ban on handguns

continued from page 1

lawful sporting activities, were single shot and had a calibre of less than .22.

David Mellor, the former Home Office minister, said the decision of the six MPs raised the prospect of Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, having to rely on Labour to get a handgun ban through the Commons when it votes on the issue in November.

"I am very disappointed that it should now appear that the Conservative Party has set its face against this change. It is profoundly damaging. I think the Labour Party is outbanking us on law and order and there is a serious danger now of the Conservative Party at all levels losing the plot on this very serious matter."

But the National Pistol Association general secretary, Ian McConchie, welcomed the MPs' stand: "A ban on guns would not have prevented the massacres. They could have happened using any type of weapon."

US keeps faith with Thatcher as family chapel is rebuilt in Kansas

San Katz in New York

LONDON Bridge spans an Arizona lake. The Queen Mary floats off Long Beach, California. Now a small piece of Thatcherism is rising from the Kansas prairies.

On the campus of Baker University in the tiny Kansas town of Baldwin City, craftsmen are meticulously reconstructing the Victorian Methodist chapel where Baroness Thatcher's father preached.

The Gothic revival chapel that stood for 182 years in the Leicestershire village of Sproxtton, not far from the Thatcher home in Grantham, was dismantled and shipped to the United States in 198 sawdust-lined crates.

In October Baroness Thatcher is to attend a re-dedication ceremony at the Methodist university for the 57th high ironstone structure.

Although the former prime minister is widely revered in the US, the university insists it did not select the chapel because of its tenuous connection to her.

An English professor from the university on leave in Britain was charged with scouting for suitable church to copy or buy, and strayed on the pretty chapel, which had fallen into disrepair.

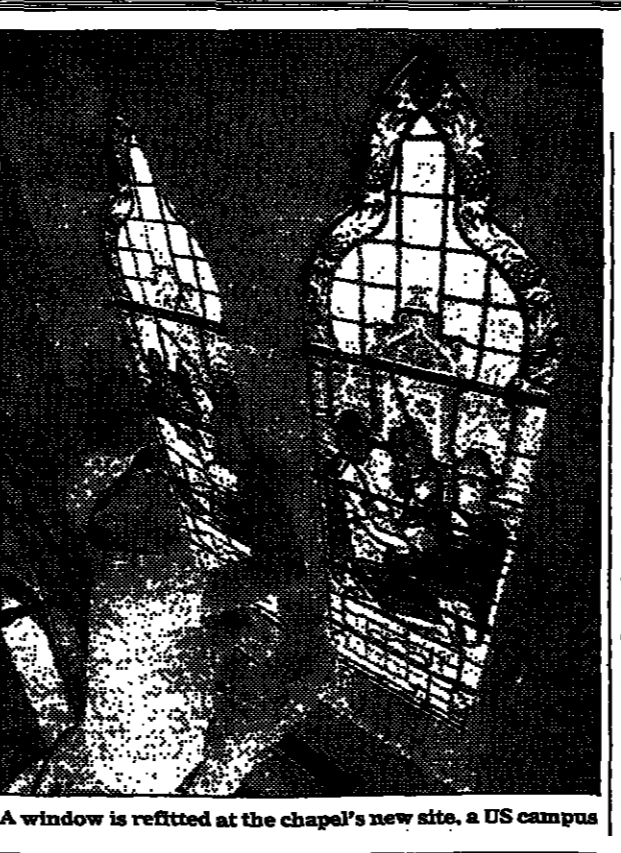
At its peak the chapel had 100 congregants, but by 1988 it could muster only three and was put up for sale. R.R. Osborne, a retired banker and philanthropist, contributed \$1 million to take the chapel apart and ship it to Kansas.

With its stained-glass windows, ancient organ and oak pulpit, the Sproxtton chapel weighs 250 tons.

Alf Roberts, more famous as a grocer than as a lay minister, preached at a number of chapels in the Grantham area. He is remembered for his fiery sermons.

Baker University plans to fly three surviving members of the Sproxtton congregation to Kansas for the re-dedication ceremony.

Last week Baker University negotiated a 10-year loan of sculptures from the 19th-century high altar of St Paul's Cathedral.



A window is refitted at the chapel's new site, a US campus

AUGUST 1ST. BRUCKNER'S 2ND.

BRUCKNER'S CENTENARY IS MARKED BY A CELEBRATION OF HIS RARELY-HEARD SECOND SYMPHONY. TONIGHT AT 7:30PM. EVERY NIGHT OF THE PROMS IS LIVE ON RADIO 3.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Foreign Office urged to halt detrimental reforms to the World Service and tell BBC to consult s

MPs rebuke 'cavalier' Birt

Andrew Gull and Rebecca Smithers

JOHAN Birt, the BBC's director general, was accused yesterday of misjudgment and adopting a cavalier attitude over planned changes to the World Service in a critical report by an influential committee of MPs.

The report said Mr Birt — accused a fortnight ago by one MP as behaving like a "kind of tsar" — was guilty of misjudgment in failing to involve World Service management and the Foreign Office. "Ministers should not simply accept that these changes will be for the good, particularly given the BBC's cavalier attitude to consultation to date," it said. "The manner in which these proposals appear to have been conceived — in some secrecy — and the apparent lack of consultation is ... regrettable as it may have exacerbated staff opposition to the changes."

points made by the BBC "with a little unease". But he said MPs respected the right of Mr Birt to press on with overhauling the general BBC structure. "But as far as these changes affect the World Service, and the use of a huge grant-in-aid, we want to be reassured that these matters are not all settled and already set in concrete. We shall be on our guard to ensure that remains the position."

Yesterday, in a letter to Mr Howell, Mr Rifkind said: "There is no doubt that Sir Christopher and Mr Birt have been impressed by parliamentary and public reaction ... to their restructuring proposals, and the manner in which they were presented. The pressure from both Houses of Parliament, in particular the committee, the views of members of past and present BBC employees, and a high level of media interest have brought home to the BBC the widespread concern that the quality of the World Service should not be put at risk."

David Sumbay, Conservative MP for Sugg South, said: "I would like some assurance that the changes aren't proceeding willy-nilly. We have to ensure we have further input before this thing becomes something we can't change back."

Main points

- BBC attitude to consultation "cavalier". Ministers should not simply accept changes are for the good.
- Failure to involve World Service management or Foreign Office in restructuring "a misjudgment".
- BBC management should hold detailed, open-minded consultation with staff. Director-general asked to report regularly to MPs.
- National Audit Office should investigate costs and benefits of changes.
- Maintaining service's international primacy is a fundamental obligation of the BBC and Government.

Former minister likely to inherit peerage from man who 'rollicked in deceit like a pig'



Filipino wives lose out as Moyনিহান promises to end legacy of disgrace

John Ezard reports on third baron's trail of lies, forgery and deception

THE former Tory minister, Colin Moyনিহান, walked victorious from the High Court yesterday, declaring himself likely to inherit the family peerage and promising to wipe out the disgrace left by his brother-keeping relative, Lord Moyনিহান.

judge, Sir Stephen Brown, to accept her son Andrew, aged six, was not fathered by Moyনিহান. This would disqualify him as heir to the title.



Daniel and Jinna Moyনিহান yesterday. Top, Lord Moyনিহান (left) and half-brother Colin

Heirline splits and family rifts

Late Lord Moyনিহান, the Third Baron, heroin smuggler, bongo player, pimp, police informer, life-long swindler. Educated at Eton, Sandhurst, Sandhurst, Sandhurst. Five wives, three daughters, two sons (percentage of one son disputed). Fled Britain in 1970 facing 57 prosecutions. Died 1991, aged 65. Mother: "Of the 36 ways of avoiding disaster, running away is the best."

Editha Eduarda Moyনিহান: Fourth wife, aged 36, Roma Flamingo Massage Parlour, Manila. Mother of would-be heir Andrew Moyনিহান, six, falsely declared dead in Moyনিহান's affidavit to divorce court. But Andrew is not Moyনিহান's son, according to DNA tests reported to court.

Jinna Moyনিহান: Fifth wife, aged 21, but marriage declared invalid by court yesterday. Reportedly a former Manila belly-dancer. Mother of Daniel, six, undisputedly baron's son, who has now lost his claim to title.

feared for the savage slum landlord, Peter Rachman. "They had this big Alsatian dog that had been taught to soil the tenants' beds," he said.

The story is irresistible, and so English: the titled lady and the gamekeeper, except in this case he's actually an ex-army section commander who was invalidated out after a car crash. Distraught at the loss of the career he loved, he turned to crime.

G2 page 4

New issue OUT NOW!



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... and Bristol, and Liverpool, and, indeed, anywhere that's witnessed one of the great live gigs ... from big crybaby **Johnnie Ray** at the legendary **Palladium Theatre, London, April 1954** to **Oasis at Maine Road, Manchester, April 1996**. Accompany us on our odyssey through time, recalling the sweat-drenched, fists-in-the-air, multi-encore-eliciting **100 Greatest Gigs** of all time!

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Q Out now! THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

MPs condemn acceptance of US firm's free trips

Oflot chief made 'serious errors'

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

PETER DAVIS, the National Lottery regulator, made "serious errors of judgment" in accepting seven free flights on corporate jets and helicopters owned by GTEch, an American company with a large stake in running the game, MPs said yesterday.

A highly critical report from the Commons public accounts committee says it "regards it of vital importance that the director general should be seen by the public to be completely impartial and at arm's length from the lottery operator, its shareholders and those with financial interests in them."

"In our view the director general's decisions to use GTEch corporate aircraft represented serious errors of judgment on his part."

The MPs were "unimpressed" by Mr Davis's argument that he had accepted the free flights only after he had announced a decision to award the licence to Camelot. "The director general has a continuing responsibility to regulate the lottery."

The committee — whose questioning exposed the free trips paid by GTEch for Mr Davis and his deputy, Diana Kahn — says the whole exercise was "unwise".

The committee also criticised Mr Davis's decision to accept hospitality from Carl Menges, head of a New York investment house with a 25 per cent stake in GTEch, in visiting his home in East Hampton, New York, in October 1994, although the friendship between Mr Davis's wife and the wife of Mr Menges predated the lottery.

The MPs said they had been concerned over doubts raised about GTEch's fitness to be involved in the lottery. These included suggestions of undesirable business practices by GTEch in obtaining lottery contracts in the US, including alleged corrupt payments in California and New Jersey.

Mr Davis said he had carried out intensive investigations and neither GTEch nor any of its officers had been charged with an offence.

MPs demanded Mr Davis take "a strong and active role" in ensuring propriety was observed. They welcomed the investigation into claims by Richard Branson, the Virgin Atlantic Airways chief, that Guy Snowden, co-chairman of GTEch, had tried to bribe him to withdraw his bid to run the lottery. An inquiry pronounced in favour of Mr Snowden.

Hospitality trips

Peter Davis's US itinerary in October 1994:

20 Oct: GTECH corporate jet from Austin, Texas, to Tallahassee, Florida. GTECH jet from Tallahassee to Atlanta, Georgia.
21 Oct: GTECH jet from Atlanta to New Jersey. GTECH helicopter from New Jersey to Manhattan, then on to New Hampton.
22 Oct: GTECH helicopter from New Hampton to Albany.
23 Oct: GTECH helicopter from Albany to New Hampton.
Other transport in hired cars paid for by GTECH.

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Critics immediately pointed out that since lotteries cannot be guaranteed success, the financial crisis and uncertain future of museums, hit by central and local authority cuts, will continue.

"All this new technology is welcome, but it could mean that British museum collections will be more accessible to people overseas, through the Internet, than the actual objects are to local people put off by admission charges and reduced opening hours," Maurice Davies, deputy director of the Museums Association, said.

Legislation will be introduced in the next parliamentary session to amend the terms for Heritage Lottery

Camelot, holder of the main licence to run the lottery, has the power to allow other companies to promote individual games. MPs raised complaints by Rainbow UK, which alleged that Camelot was not even prepared to consider its application to run an Instants scratchcard game.

Mr Davis yesterday refused to discuss the public accounts committee's findings. An Oflot spokesman said: "Oflot is looking at the report and the Government will publish its response in due course."

The Liberal Democrat national heritage spokesman, Robert Maclellan, a member of the committee, called for a fresh appraisal of Camelot's profits in the light of the critical report. "It is quite clear that Camelot has made an inordinate amount of money from running the nation's lottery," he said.

Evaluating applications to run the National Lottery and the Director General's Travel and Hospitality Arrangement. Forty-first report of the Committee of Public Accounts. HMSO, £12.50.



PC Terry Johnson ready for the inevitable stink as the Titan Arum flower at Kew Gardens yesterday burst into bloom for the first time in 33 years. Its smell, caused when flowers at the base of the central spike are fertilised, has been likened to rotting flesh, fish and burnt sugar PHOTOGRAPH KIPPA MATTHEWS

Museums' hopes pinned to lottery

Maev Kennedy
Heritage Correspondent

THERE is a virtually glittering future for museums, with their catalogues, archives and reserve collections accessible through the Internet, and their buildings full of new attractions and visitors — provided the National Lottery pays for it.

The Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, predicted yesterday that museums would be transformed in the next decade by up to £500 million in lottery cash. She was speaking at the launch of Treasures In Trust, her department's first review of the role of museums since the 1980s.

Critics immediately pointed out that since lotteries cannot be guaranteed success, the financial crisis and uncertain future of museums, hit by central and local authority cuts, will continue.

"All this new technology is welcome, but it could mean that British museum collections will be more accessible to people overseas, through the Internet, than the actual objects are to local people put off by admission charges and reduced opening hours," Maurice Davies, deputy director of the Museums Association, said.

Legislation will be introduced in the next parliamentary session to amend the terms for Heritage Lottery

Fund grants. More money will go towards museum information technology, as well as access, training and education projects including linking schools to museum collections by computer.


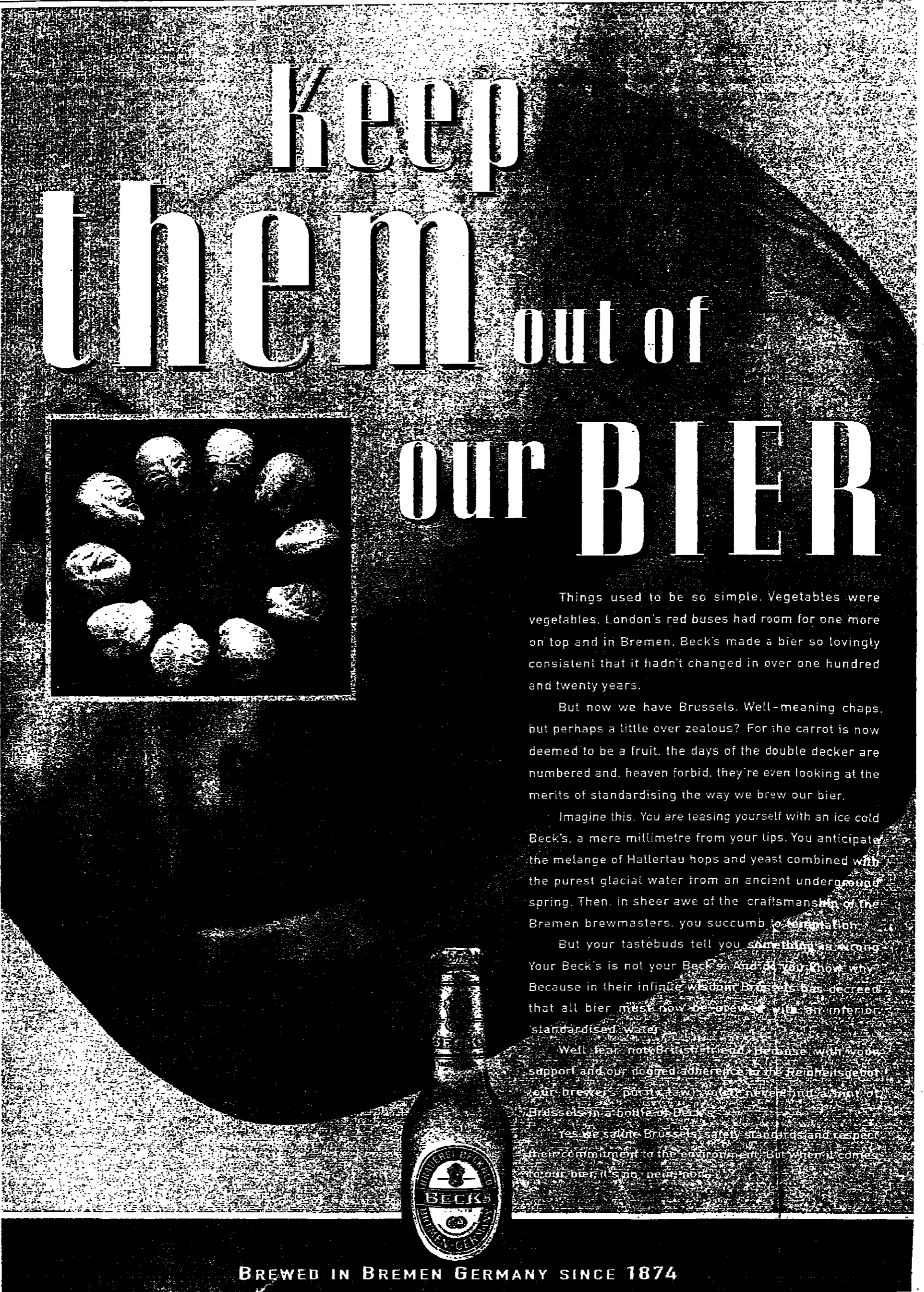
The museums sector pointed out that there is no hint of any increase in government funding. The review was originally promised more than two years ago. In the interim the Department of National Heritage budget, and the grants it passes on to heritage bodies, has been slashed, with further heavy cuts forecast.

The Heritage Lottery Fund is deciding a round of museum grants, but applications total more than £450 million, far more than available funds.

Lord Rothschild, chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund, said the proposed changes would encourage the Treasury to cut funding further, a fear echoed by the head of the Museums and Galleries Commission, James Joll, as well as the Museums Association and the Association of Independent Museums.

The review recommends designating up to 30 regional museums, almost all solely dependent on local authority support. There would be no central funds for these, but Mrs Bottomley hopes their designation would encourage business sponsorship, and increase their chances of successful lottery bids.

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MPs blame World Serv

landlady kills psychopath

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Failure to consult on changes was 'misjudgment'

MPs blame Birt for World Service row

Andrew Gull
Media Correspondent

YESTERDAY'S report from the Commons foreign affairs committee on the BBC World Service contains scathing criticism of the management style of director general John Birt and recommends open-minded consultation with staff on the planned changes to the service.

The committee expressed surprise that the Foreign Office and Sam Younger, World Service managing director, were only briefed on the restructuring the day before the announcement in June.

Mr Birt told the committee such lack of consultation was normal management practice, but the MPs said there was a crucial difference between the service and the rest of the BBC because of the £178 million grant-in-aid the service received from the FO's diplomatic wing in 1995/96.

"Not to involve either World Service management or the FO in the crucial decision to apply the restructuring to the service was, in our view, a misjudgment."

Mr Birt had told the committee that there would be consultations on how the changes were implemented. But the report said: "Ministers should not simply accept that these changes will be for the good, particularly given the BBC's cavalier attitude to consultation to date."

"This has been a difficult period for all at the World Service. Management/staff relations have been clearly put under pressure. We hope the management, helped in every capacity by senior BBC management, will use the next few months for detailed,



John Birt... management style criticised

open-minded consultation, involving staff at every level."

The committee said it would monitor developments and ask for regular written briefings after BBC/FO meetings. Mr Birt would be asked to give regular evidence to the committee as it monitors expenditure.

"We are concerned to ensure that the unique quality of the BBC World Service is not lost in a vast new super-structure within which its needs and priorities are overlooked (or even disregarded)," the report said.

It urged the National Audit Office to investigate the service's spending and assess the costs and benefits to the UK. The Campaign to Save the World Service had told MPs that the service's original programming was 28 per cent cheaper per hour than domestic network radio, its overheads were 44 per cent lower and production costs (studios, plus staff) 38 per cent lower.

Mr Birt was unable to confirm the figures, but the committee said the BBC and FO should consider the impact of

the changes on accounting for the grant-in-aid.

"The diplomatic wing must ensure that the pressure on grant-in-aid does not let restructuring lead to any diminution in the quality of the service. We are happy to see it become even more efficient."

The committee called for the reintroduction of a three-year financial planning system covering the main elements of expenditure.

The World Service had expressed disappointment over the breach of the triennial settlement for 1994-97 in last year's public expenditure settlement. Its immediate effect is a £4.8 million cut in the 1996/97 capital budget, with further cuts in operating and capital budgets in the following year.

The report urged the service to identify ways of using Private Finance Initiative funding to meet its capital needs.

Foreign affairs committee, second report; Public expenditure: Spending plans of the FO and ODA 1995/97 to 1998/99; HMSO, £3.70.



Disease plan to save red squirrel

A DESIGNER disease to make grey squirrels impotent so their red cousins can make a comeback is being researched by scientists, writes Paul Brown.

It is part of a government-backed campaign by nature conservation groups to halt the onward march of the imported grey squirrel which threatens the native red with extinction.

The virus would give grey squirrels a disease similar to a highly infectious cold from which they recover but which would leave them impotent. The disease would wipe out most of the grey squirrel population. Some individuals would prove resistant to the virus and the population would partly recover. Scientists believe the grey is less fussy in its diet, but also competes with the red for food.

The idea of squirrel disease contraceptive was one of a number of schemes revealed yesterday in the UK Strategy for Red Squirrel Conservation.

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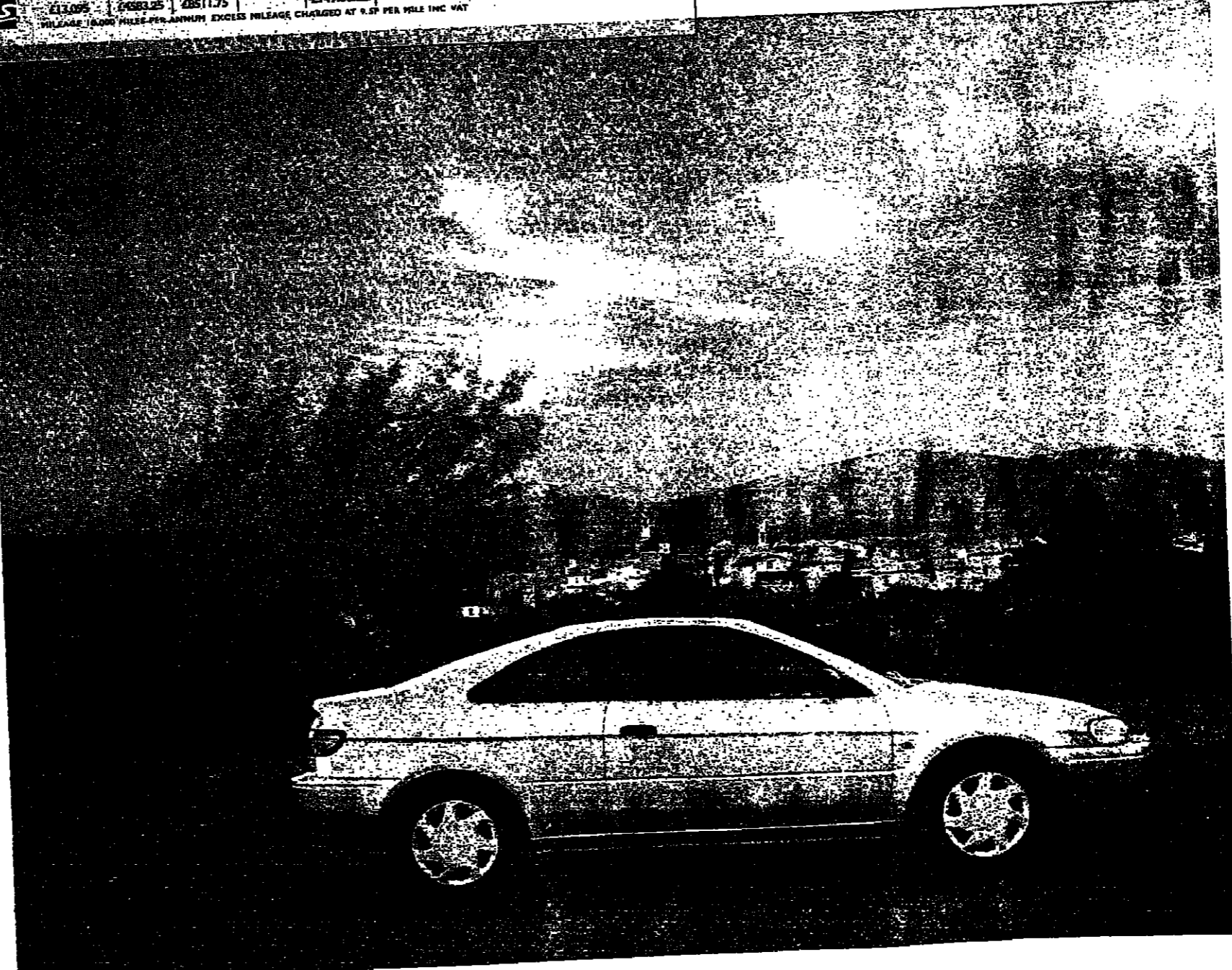
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Landlady killed by psychopath

Christopher Elliott

A PSYCHOPATH who killed the estranged wife of a leading cancer scientist was yesterday ordered detained indefinitely at a high security hospital.

Richard Burton, aged 32, stabbed his landlady to death seven weeks after moving into her home in Leicester. Before he attacked her he sat on her stairs asking himself: "Do I or don't I?" Leicester crown court was told yesterday.

Janice Symons, 59, had taken in lodgers to make ends meet after her husband, Leicester university professor Martyn Symons, left her.

Burton, who also worked at Leicester university, admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility after experts agreed he had a severe psychopathic personality disorder.

Leicester health authority last night ordered an independent inquiry into the case, and revealed that he had been a "user of mental health services" in the town, but would not say what he had been treated for or for how long.

On May 11 last year Burton got up, fetched a knife from the kitchen and then sat on the stairs asking himself whether he should kill her. When Mrs Symons got up he followed her around the house before attacking her. As she struggled to escape he plunged the knife into her three times.

Frances Oldham QC, prosecuting, said that as Mrs Symons lay dying in the hallway Burton called an ambulance saying he had just killed his landlady. When detectives asked why he had killed her he said: "I don't know why. I just did."

James Hunt QC, defending, said five doctors agreed he suffered from a severe personality disorder which made him a risk to the public. One of them, Ian Wilson, said: "He's plainly a young man with a severe personality disorder but with superior intelligence."

Outside court the victim's cousin, Alex Kewley, said: "I am disgusted with the sentence. I believe he should have been jailed for life and never released." "I don't believe he is mad. I think he will soon be free to kill again."

Curfew orders and tagging planned for fine defaulters

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

CURFEW orders monitored by electronic tagging are to be used for punishing fine defaulters and persistent low-level offenders such as those convicted of minor motoring offences, under plans announced by Home Office ministers yesterday.

The further extension of the American-style tagging experiment is aimed at developing alternatives to jailing 20,000 fine defaulters a year.

A consultation document published yesterday suggests that the courts be given powers to order unpaid community work or curfew as alternatives to a seven-day prison sentence.

The Home Office minister, Lady Blatch, said unpaid fines totalled £200 million a year. Some 22,400 men and 1,450 women are jailed each year for failing to pay fines.

Chief probation officers yesterday raised serious doubts about the proposals, saying they were fraught with practical difficulties and could harm community service orders which until now had been reserved for fairly serious offences.

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World news in brief

Unemployment hits record in France

A RECORD one in eight French people of working age is now unemployed, according to figures released yesterday. The 12.5 per cent joblessness figure is the highest since international calculations were harmonised in 1983. With 3.38 million unemployed, France's unemployment rate rivals those of Ireland (12.4 per cent) and Italy (12.5 per cent). The figures were released only days after the prime minister, Alain Juppé, announced 8,000 job cuts among public servants. He said the cuts were to include 2,300 education posts, prompting teaching unions yesterday to call for strikes after the summer holidays. Marc Blondel, secretary-general of the socialist Force Ouvrière union centre, said he expected a further increase in joblessness. "One asks oneself if Juppé is still running the country," he told the financial daily newspaper, Les Échos. "It seems that the Bank of France and financiers are running it." The Observatoire Français des Conjonctures Économiques think tank yesterday predicted unemployment would continue to rise, even with a gradual return to growth, to 3.5 million next year. — Alex Duval Smith, Paris. Notebook, page 11

Rao exempted from testifying

INDIA'S supreme court yesterday exempted the former prime minister P. V. Narasimha Rao from testifying in a case in which he is accused of being party to the swindling of a wealthy British-based businessman, pending its ruling on his appeal against the summons issued by a lower court. Chief Justice A. M. Ahmadi said the New Delhi supreme court would begin hearing Mr Rao's appeal on August 12. The former prime minister had gone to the supreme court after the Delhi High Court had ruled on Tuesday that he must testify as a co-accused in the case. Mr Rao's appeal is his last legal recourse to quashing the summons. The case has brought calls for his resignation as president of the disgraced Congress party. "I am totally innocent and I have nothing to do with the matter," Mr Rao, aged 75, told state television. The lower court ordered him to appear after a businessman, Lekhubhai Pathak, said he had paid \$64,000 to an acquaintance of Mr Rao in 1983 in a vain attempt to win a government contract. Mr Pathak alleges that Mr Rao, then foreign minister, told him in a Manhattan hotel: "Your work will be done." Mr Rao says he was not in New York at the time. — Reuters, New Delhi.

Harare court rejects gay ban

ZIMBABWE'S only gay group won the right to take part in Africa's biggest book fair yesterday after the country's high court overruled a government ban. The ban announced on Monday — on the eve of the five-day international fair in Harare — was declared invalid because it did not specify which material was deemed unsuitable for display, said Keith Goddard, the spokesman for Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe. The government's censorship board had said the planned exhibit violated laws usually used to cover obscenity and violence in literature, the theatre and films. Mr Goddard said the gay group hoped to open its display by early today, despite threats of violence against homosexuals by militant students and ruling party officials. Organisers of the book fair were insisting on having the ruling in writing before allowing the group to set up its booth. Gay activists had planned to stock their booth with pamphlets on gay rights and on the organisation's counselling service. Last year, Zimbabwe's president, Robert Mugabe, forced a similar gay exhibit out of the fair, and described homosexuals as "lower than dogs and pigs". Homosexuality is illegal in Zimbabwe. In a separate case, the veteran Zimbabwean opposition leader Ndadabingi Sithole is to stand trial in November on charges of plotting to assassinate President Mugabe, his lawyer said yesterday after a magistrate's hearing in Harare. — Agencies, Harare.



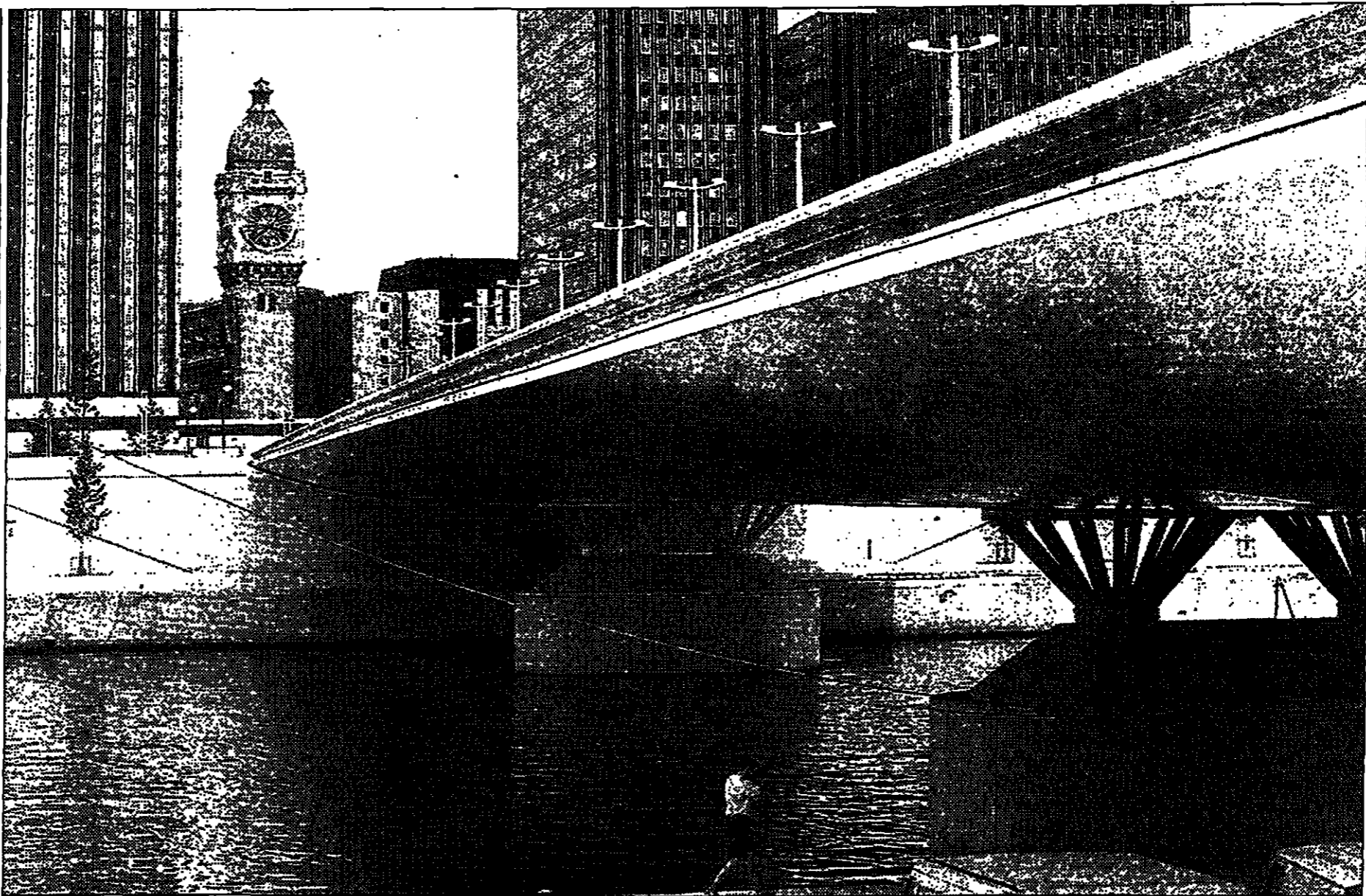
A Norwegian ballerina, Mette Lill Johansen (right), touches the side of a £70,000 house in Skiend during an endurance competition to win it, which ended yesterday. Ms Johansen beat off 396 other hopefuls to claim her new home, after keeping her hand on it for 109 hours. PHOTOGRAPH: ROOGER NEUMAN

Bhutto's husband in cabinet

PAKISTAN'S prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, has selected her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, to fill one of eight new posts in her cabinet, state-run Pakistan Television reported yesterday. The appointment is likely to draw sharp criticism from government opponents, who have already accused Ms Bhutto of nepotism and corruption. Opposition members have accused Mr Zardari of corrupt business practices. It was the first significant cabinet expansion for Ms Bhutto's government. The portfolios for the new ministers will be determined later as part of an expected reshuffle. — AP, Islamabad.

New vaccine approved

THE United States Food and Drug Administration yesterday approved the first of several new whooping cough vaccines that promise to be safer for millions of infants. Connaught Laboratories' vaccine Tripedia has been shown in Swedish and German studies to be at least 80 per cent effective in preventing whooping cough, while causing fewer cases of fever, irritability and swelling upon injection than existing vaccines. Whooping cough attacks 50 million children worldwide annually, killing about 350,000. — AP, Washington.



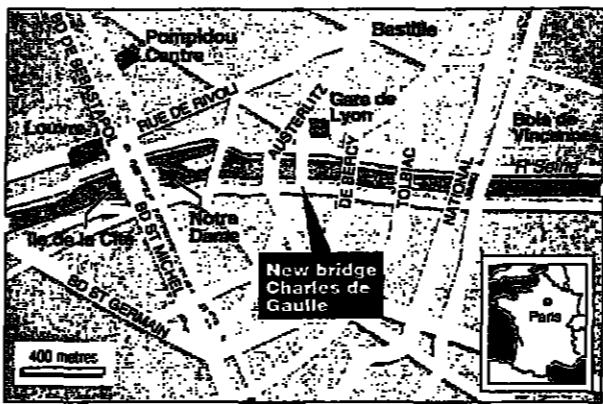
The Pont Charles-de-Gaulle, which opens next Thursday, has been criticised for not linking large boulevards either side of the river

PHOTOGRAPH: THOMAS COEX

Paris banks on its 'bridge to nowhere'

Pont Charles-de-Gaulle is the toast of the capital but opponents claim it is a failure, writes Alex Duval Smith

ASPIRING artists hoping to follow in the footsteps of painters such as Monet, Signac and Caillebotte have a new Parisian subject for their canvases. The elegant Pont Charles-de-Gaulle, which opens to traffic at 5am next Thursday, is the 37th — and possibly last — bridge to be built across the Seine in central Paris. Jean-Marc, a workman putting a final coat of paint on a traffic-light post yesterday, believed the Fr 340 million (£30 million) concrete and steel structure broke new ground. "It is as beautiful and clean-looking as on the architect's drawing," he said. "But it is so neat that most people do not even notice it is here."



The first new bridge in Paris for 24 years has been dogged by controversy since building work began three years ago. Now it is completed, opponents claim it is a bridge to nowhere, failing to link large boulevards either side of the river. Environmentalists consider the bridge's failure to be their triumph. Green campaigner Pierre-Alain Brossault said: "The plan was to raze the most magnificent hall in Gare d'Austerlitz and run four lanes of traffic through it. The bridge would have been one of the main crossings in Paris." Pressure from the environmentalists stopped the scheme. The Pont Charles-de-Gaulle is now one-way, with two lanes for cars, one for

buses and space for pedestrians and cyclists. The cycle lane — one of the capital's first stretches of tarmac dedicated to bicycles — is separated from the pavement by a wooden bench running the full 207 metres of the flat bridge. Mr Brossault is confident that cycle paths will be built on each bank to connect with the bridge. "The new mayor of Paris has seen the merit of encouraging cycling in the capital, so we are hopeful," he said. The design of the bridge — given its name by the Gaullist president, Jacques Chirac, when he was mayor of Paris — has been universally welcomed. Its clear lines on two steel and concrete supports make bridge-building look effortless. It contrasts starkly with its two neighbours up and downstream: the arched steel Viaduc d'Austerlitz with its clattering metro traffic looks like a relic from the industrial revolution; and the limestone Pont de Bercy has all the glamour of a Roman aqueduct. A spokeswoman at Paris city hall had a prepared description of the new bridge: "It is simple, very fine and shaped like the wing of an aeroplane." Less poetically, she said traffic in the area, the 12th and 13th districts of the capital, was expected to increase by 40 per cent in the next 15 years. Mr Brossault, at 40 a lifelong resident of the 13th district, said that figure did not surprise him. "The bridge is right next to the new National Library — part of a development scheme which has taken the soul out of the last haven in Paris for ordinary people." Environmentalists on each side of the river claim that their areas — once home to wine warehouses and the site where Fanhard created a petrol-driven car in 1821 — are being stripped of their trees, people and soul. The battered

Salvation Army hostel, on a barge moored near the new bridge, is said to be threatened with expulsion as part of a clean-up. "On one side of the river, we have been given luxury housing developments and the hideous ministry of finance. On the other, we are still suffering with the building site surrounding the National Library," Mr Brossault said. Although yesterday no artists were to be seen immortalising the new bridge, they may not be long in coming. The bridge's architect, Marcel Nouvriat, who took over the project after the death of the original designer, Louis Arretche and Roman Karasinski, believes the Pont Charles-de-Gaulle will be loved by artists. "Here, the eye of the pedestrian meets a range of sights which typify Paris. You can see the finance ministry, Austerlitz and Lyon stations, the National Library, several bridges and even the cathedral of Notre-Dame," he said.

Public averse to Yeltsin ode

James Meek in Moscow. AS KREMLIN coups go, it was swift, bloodless and short. The ode was dispatched without right of appeal and, for once, Russia had cause to bless the censor's hand. The poem in question — the Ode to the President — was due to be performed at Boris Yeltsin's inauguration next week, but there were jeers when extracts from the verse appeared in the Moscow press. Yesterday, the new head of the presidential administration, Anatoly Chubais, announced that he was putting the ode out of its, and everyone else's, misery. The most celebrated passage ran: "For our proud and mighty nation it is strong and may rejoice now that it has made its choice." Mr Chubais did not go

into detail about his reasons for banning the work, except to say that when he first read the extracts they produced "a strong impression". Three thousand people are due to attend the ceremony, in the Kremlin's Cathedral Square, which promises to be an intriguing and possibly troublesome attempt to leap imperial, Orthodox and democratic symbolism on a man who in recent television appearances has seemed to have difficulty walking. Conscious of the danger of a televised Sun King scenario at the inauguration, Mr Chubais said the ceremony would be "far from glittering" and would avoid "monstrous bombast". None the less, he added, the organisers had studied leftist coronation rituals. "We borrowed an idea or two from those sources," he said. Mr Yeltsin has been away from his Kremlin desk, and

Serb office for tribunal

Julian Borger in Sarajevo. THE Bosnian Serbs agreed yesterday to allow the United Nations war crimes tribunal to set up an office on their territory — a significant departure from their earlier policy of non-co-operation — but claimed that "legal obstacles" still prevented them handing over war crime suspects. At its headquarters in The Hague, the tribunal ended three days of talks with a Bosnian Serb delegation with a joint statement announcing the establishment of a liaison office in the Serb-controlled town of Bijeljina to co-ordinate the investigation of war crimes. There was little progress towards the surrender of war crimes suspects, such as the Bosnian Serb wartime leaders Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, who are still at large. The statement said: "Although it was considered by the delegation that there were some legal obstacles in that regard, they would do all that they could to fully co-operate with the tribunal to bring all perpetrators to justice." The Bosnian Serb leadership initially dismissed the tribunal as a kangaroo court, but it has not tried to prevent its exhumation of mass graves, which began three weeks ago under heavy United States military protection. The despatch of a delegation under the justice minister, Marko Arsovic, and the acceptance of a liaison office suggest a significant improvement in co-operation. A UN official in Sarajevo described it as "a serious step forward". International mediators came away empty-handed yesterday from a meeting in Zagreb with the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, intended to resolve a political crisis in the divided city of Mostar which threatens to derail the peace settlement. Michael Steiner, the international community's deputy High Representative, who was accompanied by the US ambassadors to Croatia and Bosnia, and the Bosnian vice-president Ejup Ganic, hoped that President Tudjman would instruct Bosnian Croat nationalists to end their boycott of the newly-elected Mostar city council, on which Muslim-led parties have a majority. Diplomats said the meeting was bitter and inconclusive. One said Mr Tudjman's attitude was "dismissive". The European Union says that if no compromise is found by Sunday it will wind up its peace mission in Mostar, setting a discouraging precedent for the national elections in September, which are intended to help rebuild multi-ethnic institutions. Admiral Joseph Lopez arrived in Sarajevo yesterday to take over command of a 55,000-strong peace implementation force from Admiral Leighton Smith, who is retiring from the US navy. Adm Smith said his successor, also from America, was "in for one hell of a ride".



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The Guardian Thursday August 1 1996

Bavarians get tough on abortion

Denis Staunton in Berlin

BAVARIA introduced a tough abortion law yesterday forcing women to say why they want to terminate their pregnancy and forbidding doctors to earn more than a quarter of their income from abortions.

The conservative Christian Social Union forced the legislation through the state parliament after a debate lasting more than 100 hours and in the face of passionate opposition from Social Democrats and Greens.

Two doctors have already warned that they will mount a legal challenge to the law.

The German Bundestag passed a federal abortion law last year after the Federal Constitutional Court ruled that women must receive counselling before a termination is allowed.

The federal law — which was backed by the government and the Social Democrats — allows abortion within the first three months of pregnancy and specifies that counselling must be neutral and "open-ended", leaving the decision to the woman herself.

The Bavarian law demands that women identify a reason for the termination during counselling, although the state government said that the sessions would remain neutral. It rejected opposition

charges that it was acting as the political arm of the Roman Catholic Church.

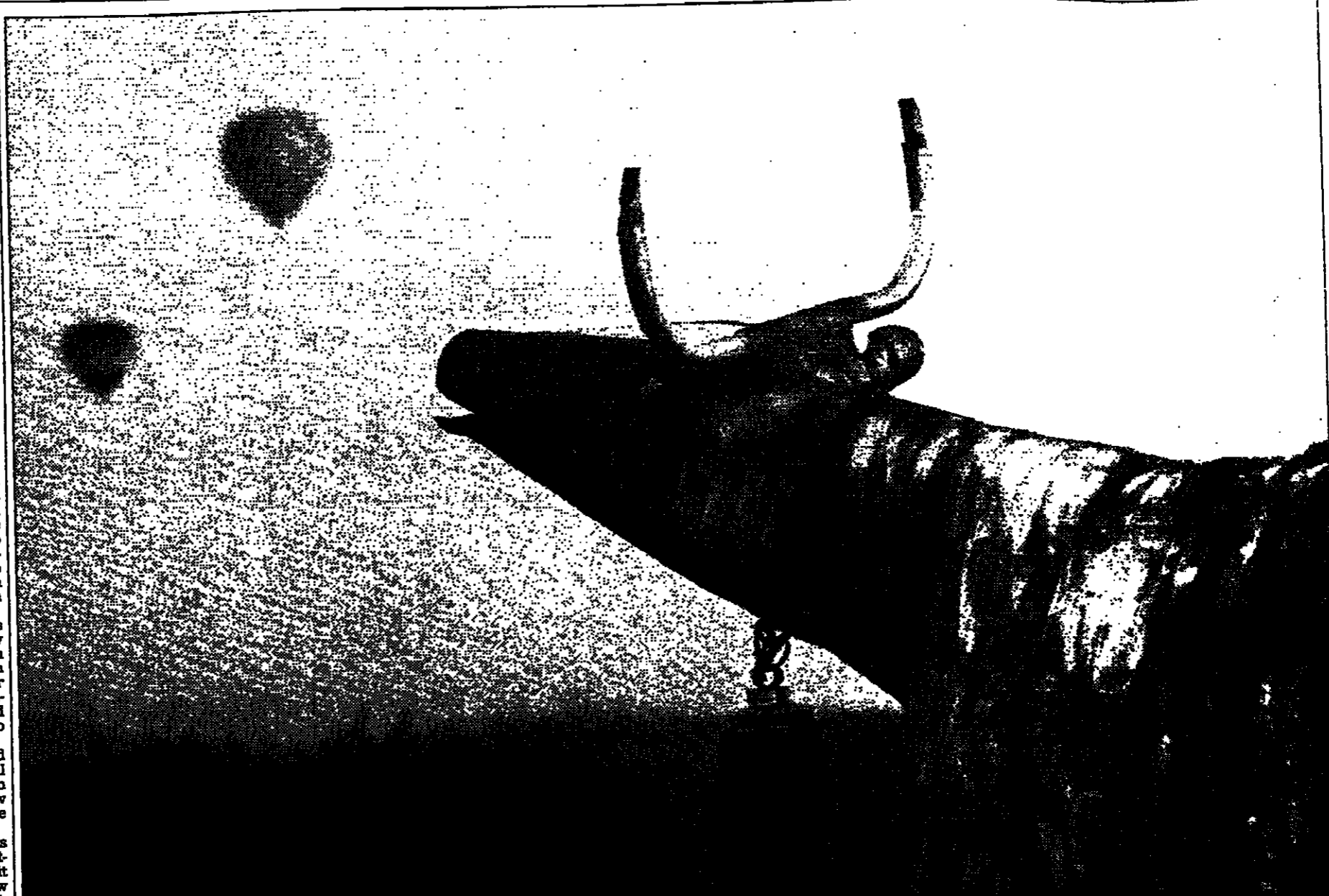
Bavaria ran into legal trouble last year when the Federal Constitutional Court ruled that the state's schools should not be obliged to display crucifixes in each classroom. The Bavarian prime minister, Edmund Stoiber, led a popular crusade against the ruling and vowed that the crosses would never be taken down.

The state government feared that specific abortion clinics would be set up in Bavaria unless doctors were persuaded that there was no commercial gain in performing terminations. Now, no doctor may earn more than 25 per cent of his income from abortions.

The Social Democrats warned that the new law would promote "abortion tourism", with Bavarian women travelling to other parts of Germany for terminations. The party said it would support a legal challenge to the bill.

However, experts warned yesterday that if the Federal Constitutional Court rules in favour of Bavaria, the new law might be extended to the rest of Germany.

Germany's abortion rate is falling, especially in the eastern states, but officials admit that they do not know how many women travel to Britain and the Netherlands for cheap abortions with no strings attached.



Seen, not herd... A 1.5-ton metal cow, welded from fuel tanks by Gary Vig, is captured in a frozen moo on a farm near Woodinville, Washington

PHOTOGRAPH BY MERV LEE/REUTERS

News in brief

Cartoonist sentenced

The Algerian cartoonist Chawki Amari and Kheiridine Amyar, a director of the newspaper La Tribune, were given suspended jail sentences by a court in Algiers yesterday for a cartoon which mocked the national flag.

La Tribune said the "particularly heavy" sanctions were a warning to the country's independent press, which faced "intimidation and harassment from the most conservative circles of power". — Reuters.

Vesco in court

The fugitive American financier Robert Vesco, detained in Cuba a year ago, will go on trial in Havana today charged with defrauding foreign investors. The prosecution is seeking a 20-year jail sentence. — Reuters.

Desert moves

The United States and Saudi Arabia announced plans to move US troops in the kingdom to new locations as quickly as possible, to improve base security. — Reuters.

Mines at large

South Korean troops with metal detectors searched rice paddies yesterday for 864 tons

of shells, land mines, grenades and other ammunition swept away by floods which caused landslides and destroyed many barracks and other military installations in towns north of Seoul last week. — AP.

Kelly's gold

A group of Aborigines went to court in Brisbane yesterday demanding the £50 each promised to their ancestors Wamamutta and Weramabe 116 years ago as a reward for helping the police to catch the outlaw Ned Kelly. — AP.

Verbal rocket

The United Nations special envoy to Afghanistan accused the Taliban militia of "contempt" in firing a salvo of rockets which landed near a UN office, and warned them they had to "learn how to negotiate and to compromise with people holding views other than theirs". — AP.

Shipshape

A patrol boat, the first vessel in the new Sierr Leone navy, arrived in the northern port of Koper yesterday. — AP.

Bag victim

A pregnant giraffe died after swallowing a plastic bag which caught on the wire mesh of her cage at the Xi'an city zoo in China. — AP.

Buchanan plans a rival platform

Ian Katz in New York

PAT BUCHANAN, the tenacious thorn in the side of the Republican presidential contender Bob Dole, yesterday outlined an alternative convention platform and warned that he would not endorse Mr Dole unless he selected a sufficiently conservative running mate.

But the television commentator turned rabble-rousing ideologue offered the beleaguered Dole campaign some relief by announcing that he would not attempt to disrupt the Republican Party convention in San Diego and playing down suggestions that he might form an independent party.

He said: "We're going to that convention as Republicans. We hope to leave as Republicans. But I am more committed to a lot of these ideas and issues than to any party label."

Mr Buchanan, who sent shock waves through his party, and the country, by winning the New Hampshire primary in February, has doggedly refused to pull out of the race for the Republican nomination,

even though it was mathematically sealed by Mr Dole months ago.

Dole campaign staff feared that Mr Buchanan might attempt to upstage the former Senate majority leader in San Diego, just as he did at the last Republican convention in Houston.

He promised to get tough in San Diego if the party tried to weaken its commitment to a constitutional amendment banning the "growing practice of euthanasia and assisted suicide".

But in an apparently conciliatory move, he said he would push for the party to take more conservative positions rather than insist-

ing on policy commitments. "These are not take-or-leave-it proposals. These are ideas that will emphasize the difference between the Republican Party and Bill Clinton."

He said his decision on whether to endorse Mr Dole, as all the other Republican contenders have done, would depend on the "tone" of the convention speakers and the former Kansas senator's choice of running mate.

The list of speakers — including the Gulf war hero General Colin Powell and the moderate New Jersey governor Christie Whitman — was not, he suggested,

dryly, a "conservative lineup".

Clinton signs welfare bill to end guaranteed aid for poor

Reuber in Washington

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has decided to sign a Republican-sponsored welfare reform bill which would end the biggest changes in the federal aid programme for the poor since the 1930s.

Mr Clinton said he had decided to sign the bill despite some misgivings. Critics believe it would undermine support for poor children.

"Today we have an historic opportunity to make welfare what it was meant to be: a second chance, not a way of life," Mr Clinton said.

Officials said that although Mr Clinton was troubled by some features of the bill, he had decided that on balance it

was an improvement on the current welfare system and could be modified later.

The bill would end a 61-year guarantee of federal aid to the poor, limit benefits to five years and require recipients to work after two years of benefits.

One source said Mr Clinton's decision was expected to cause an uproar among some of his fellow Democrats, but said the White House did not expect any "fundamental political problems".

Mr Clinton, who promised in his 1992 election campaign to "end welfare as we know it", vetoed two previous welfare reform bills. Some advisers argued that vetoing a third could prompt election-year charges of insincerity.

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Jumping the gun
Ban them now: no need to wait

AT THE TIME of the Dunblane massacre, politicians were left as shocked and helpless as the rest of the community. The Government now has the opportunity to make life safer by banning the private ownership of handguns. The home affairs select committee has had the opportunity to contribute and has muffed its chance. It should be ignored. The Conservative majority of the committee refused to back this sensible measure because of its so-called impracticality. John Greenway, one of the Conservative members, pleads that despite the strength of feeling in the wake of Dunblane, gun ownership should be looked at "dispassionately". Of course public feeling isn't always the best guide for policy, as Martin Woolcott makes clear on the page opposite. But the universal outcry following the deaths of the 16 children and the 700,000 signatures of the Snowdrop petition against handguns shouldn't be ignored either. Public opinion here chimes with the dictates of both morality and commonsense. The majority of the home affairs committee has chosen only to recommend stronger requirements for gun licensing. The tougher screening proposed for those applying to use such weapons would never be entirely fool-proof. The effect, if another Thomas Hamilton slips through, would be devastating: no one can be sure it won't happen again. It is easy to conclude after the tragedy has occurred, whether in Dunblane or in Tasmania, that those responsible could have been identified in advance as fitting the typical profile of a single male suffering from low self-esteem and alienation. But such a person may, before the event, simply be seen as a bit odd or a loner. With hindsight it seems obvious that Thomas Hamilton should never have had access to weapons, but human behaviour is unpredictable. It would be an impossi-

ble task to stop some people slipping through the net. But that does not mean we shouldn't try. Following the Hungerford massacre in 1987, when Michael Ryan killed 16 people, private ownership of semi-automatic weapons was rightly banned. Ownership of automatic weapons was already illegal. The gun lobby, predictably, claimed then that such a ban was an impractical knee-jerk reaction — but the judgment was right: that the danger of members of the public owning such weapons outweighed the benefit from their private ownership and sporting use. That judgment should be applied more extensively now for handguns: the principle is exactly the same. If the government judges there to be a legitimate case for the use of handguns in sport a practical — and "dispassionate" — solution is possible. There is absolutely no reason why people should have handguns at home. Those who wish to use them for sport should do so at a gun club and all such weapons should be kept there. By law gun clubs would have to meet stringent security standards and those clubs without a highly secure armory should not be allowed to offer facilities for handgun shooting. The home affairs committee report will not be published till later this month but the early disclosure of the central issue — to which the public attaches such importance — was justifiable. John Prescott has, rightly, pledged the Labour Party's support in a vote to ban handgun ownership in homes. The Government is refusing to comment until after Lord Cullen's inquiry into the Dunblane tragedy reports back in the autumn. The Conservative Party, which prides itself on a tough approach to law and order, should stop procrastinating. Waiting until autumn won't make any difference. Handguns are not safe at home: and that's that.

Images of the battlefield
Improving airport security is only part of the solution

TERRORISM IS by definition a terrible thing, but the frenetic reaction to recent events should prompt some reflection. The Paris meeting of the G7 and Russia was the third international gathering in four months. Each has been triggered by a particularly horrific incident: each is said to put on a "show of unity" which will send a "strong message" to terrorists around the world. Yet this may have the opposite effect, simply demonstrating that to hit at American targets will generate the maximum anger and disarray — and gratification for those committing the deed. The practical steps agreed on in Paris could have been taken by a group of specialists whose decisions would not then be broadcast for all to hear. Setting higher standards of detection at airports, improving the stamping of vehicle identification numbers to ease analysis of metal fragments, and pooling forensic data more widely are common-sense measures. Standards in the US are often no better than elsewhere. Airports are overwhelmed by the volume of human traffic and its baggage: dozens of poorly vetted staff are allowed to board aircraft on the ground. The US with Britain leads the world in the development of chemical trucks. Yet more than a year after the Oklahoma City bombing, President Clinton is still trying to persuade Congress to approve the use of chemical "taggants" to identify the common black powder often used in homemade explosives.

The case of the Atlanta security guard Richard Jewell shows just what difficult ground this is. Whether or not he was involved, there seems little doubt that this bomb must be attributed to the American ultra-right. Fierce declarations of war on terrorism will have even less effect in Montana than Damascus. At the moment, the US feels threatened from both quarters — assuming that the TWA disaster was (a) caused by a bomb, and (b) that a Middle Eastern source was responsible. Commentators are proclaiming an end to innocence and the need for greater vigilance. Certainly no one who stirs from home can be indifferent to the potential threat, even if it is minute compared to other risks. Worst-case scenarios go further with speculation about chemical and biological agents, or nuclear material acquired from the former Soviet Union. Again, these are alarming possibilities which cannot just be shrugged aside. But to talk solely in images of the battlefield is to miss the point: the terrorists may be the enemy but they are not aliens from another planet. They come, however perverse or destructive their goals, from within societies to which we belong, either as nations or as members of the world community. What sort of homeland breeds pipe-bomb fanatics? What kind of regional tensions have bred whole generations of bombers? These questions, as much as those about improved security, also need to be asked.

On the oche, aiming for gold
We need a strategy to restore Olympic honours

IT IS DISconcerting how the world gangs up against Britain by inventing all sorts of new Olympic sporting events to undermine our chances. Nothing else can explain Britain's dismal performance this year which could be one of the worst on record. We have to go back to 1908 to find an outstanding performance by Britain (56 golds, would you believe) but that was when the Olympics included sensible sports like tug-of-war. It is time to fight back. The news that snooker is being considered for the 2004 games is encouraging (but they ought to delay a decision so other countries don't have time to practise). So was yesterday's news that the British Darts Organisation has suggested that darts be included as well. This is only the start. The Government should insist on more real games being accorded Olympic status: like rounders, tossing the caber, skittles, archery (with longbows), real tennis,

real cycling (with penny farthings), tiddlywinks, marbles, postman's knock, Morris Dancing, tip and run, knock-down-ginger, yard-of-ale drinking and shove-a-penny (the latter could be extended to shove-euro to prove we are not being nationalistic). Other track events could be included as long as they are measured in yards rather than metres to deter as many competitors as possible. (If Linford Christie had been running in the 100 yards rather than the 100 metres would he have been so distracted as to make a false start?) It is only through radical thinking that we can recapture the glory that is Britain. And it should banish for ever such silly suggestions that Britain's failure has got something to do with the thousands of sports fields and other facilities forced to close under the Government's scorched earth policy towards schools. It is time we stopped looking for excuses and did something positive.

Advertisement for 'Dispassionate View' with the Home Affairs Select Committee Range. Includes images of a gun and a person, and text: 'BLINKERS', 'AND DON'T FORGET THERE'S A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE HERE...', 'Also available from The Home Affairs Select Committee Range: BLINDFOLDS, EAR PLUGS, PERSONAL BUCKET OF SAND HEAD MUFFLERS.'

Letters to the Editor
On these mean streets

TREVOR Nunn has got his script seriously wrong when he charges London's homeless people with the responsibility for cleaning up the capital's streets. To say that people forced to sleep rough on London's streets are therefore ideally placed to clean them up is a misleading diversion from the main plot. London is centre-stage for some of the country's worst housing problems. The lack of affordable homes for rent being the most important factor. Mr Nunn's arguments not only fail to address the fundamental problems of the lack of investment in sanitation but also portray homeless people as a superfluous subtext. Forsooth, Mr Nunn — come to Shelter's Piccadilly advice centre in the heart of the West End or to any of our housing aid centres and we will show you that the quality of mercy cannot be strained far enough. Homeless people need just enough help to get off the streets and back on their feet. Now that sounds like a far more plausible storyline. Chris Holmes, Director, Shelter, 88 Old Street, London EC1V 9HU.

WHAT most concerns me about Trevor Nunn's simplistic match between homeless young people who look "able-bodied and youthful" and the need for street cleaners is the dangerous assumption that homeless people don't want to work, and ought to be given a job. By implication he instantly removes the rights that presumably he believes apply to other young people. Young homeless people have the same rights, dignity and potential as Mr Nunn and Dame Maggie Smith. Using them as a scapegoat for society's failings is wrong. To tackle homelessness we need a basic safety net, a care system integrated with housing provision and employment training which attempts to bridge the huge gap between the theory of education and the practice of work. Trevor Aderawale, Chief Executive, Centrepoint, Bewley House, 2 Swallow Place, London W1R 7AA.

Hammer blows ring loud in the battle against terrorism

THE G7 states, ourselves among them, have come up with yet more get-tough policies to combat "terrorism" (Purge omits terror "patrons", July 31). Meanwhile an English jury has found innocent four women who might well have been seen as terrorists by many of those same G7 governments (Peace women cleared over jet attack, July 31). These women seriously damaged a British Aerospace warplane, on the grounds that it was destined for use by a state in furtherance of a policy of genocide. Interesting questions arise. Might these women, despite their acquittal, now expect to be blacklisted by the new G7 international surveillance and intelligence machinery? On the other hand — given the Liverpool judgment, might we now see the Indonesian government blacklisted as a terrorist organisation? And if Indonesia's undoubted terrorism were so recognised, which other states in our morally dubious international world might be next? The only truly effective weapon in "the fight against terrorism" is one which governments hate to consider. It is the recognition that terrorist behaviour is committed, mostly by people who are victims of injustice by states whom they are denied avenues of redress. The answer is for governments to recognise their injustices towards those whom they have driven to desperation. Ruth Gurnay, 26 Rochester Square, London NW1 5SA.

Strong words

IT'S THE best of news to me that Julie Burchill is "back" (Return of the month, July 23). When she was writing for the Sunday Times I used to open that paper even on the street, at the risk of collision, to read her piece, unable to wait till I got home. Whether or not I agreed with what she wrote, though I often did, her writing was my weekly tonic. Then her articles stopped appearing, and I couldn't either get rid of her, or let her go. I assumed she had been made an offer she couldn't refuse, and that I'd hear about it soon. I was mystified, and could not wait for "Only the Best" to be written, in which case there is no urgency or excuse for endangering others; or they may be vital (in the driver's opinion): if so, they are likely to provide such a distraction as to divert his or her attention from driving, which must be equally unacceptable. Driving with one hand on

Hands on the wheel, please

CONGRATULATIONS on tackling the growing menace of the use of mobile phones by drivers (Hands off the mobile, July 29). I would go further: it may be trivial, in which case there is no urgency or excuse for endangering others; or they may be vital (in the driver's opinion): if so, they are likely to provide such a distraction as to divert his or her attention from driving, which must be equally unacceptable. Driving with one hand on



ROSEMARKIE: It looked incongruous striding along a sun-soaked beach near Inverness where people were sunbathing as I had wellingtons on and was carrying a long-handled pond net. Not so my two young grandchildren, as they were in their element running through the shallow water as we headed for the rocks. There are few rock pools on this part of the east coast of the Highlands but this stretch is ideal as some of the pools are deep. The main purpose of the visit was to collect some winkles for me to eat and the pond net was to introduce the children to the rich wildlife of the pools. When I was their age I was brought up on eelers (baby eels), tripe and chitterlings, with the occasional bag of winkles that were sold from a market stall in Gloucester. When I kept several aquariums my favourite was the one for rock pool fish, anemones and crabs and it was at Rosemarkie that I collected the various specimens. Once a good bag of winkles had been collected I started pond dipping, trying

The call of the wild places

IAN MITCHELL in his article on conservation bodies (Who's got a secret, July 31) unfairly criticises the John Muir Trust for not providing him with copies of management plans, whereas it was made clear to him that these are in the process of preparation. The trust has only acquired its four properties in recent years and is committed to gathering all relevant information about their qualities and features, and involving local people in planning future management. These wild spaces are of immense value to people living there and visitors alike. It is important to produce properly researched management plans which take these interests into account. If this takes a little time, we make no apology. Local people quite rightly

Broad church

YOUR news item (Heath paid to speak at 'Moonlie' conference, July 31) quotes an organiser, Larry Moffat, as saying of Sir Edward: "When we are talking family issues, like poverty, famine, he's one of the most experienced men in the neighbourhood." I think someone should have a word with Mr Moffat — preferably before he hands over the cheque. Michael Hutton, 6 Monclaire Road, London SE8 8AX.

The reality of Amsterdam

THE legalisation of brothels may well be a good idea, but offering Amsterdam as a "workable and civilised" model (letters, July 31) is nonsense. The theory of the place may be impeccable but the reality is different. The area is full of sad-faced South-east Asian and east European girls, many of them illegal immigrants coming into continental Europe and trapped once they are here. The place reeks of enforced exploitation by organised crime. The peepshow set-up of the shop windows is deeply degrading for the women having to stand naked to the world, and you can't walk 100 metres without some shifty little creep trying to sell you coke or heroin. Anyone who thinks that is emancipation for prostitutes needs his or her head examined. The only freedom there

Handwritten signature: 'D. J. ...'

Diary Matthew Norman

TOUCH of what my friend Mandy Manderson would call the "nurgly nurgly nurgly" the security of the Labour benches. Carol Barron, wife of Rother Valley MP Kevin, writes in response to the item here about queue jumping in the Commons...

Science that produces more death than life

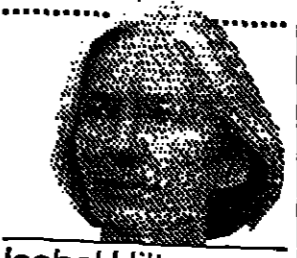
Commentary Hugo Young

THIS is a day that should not be diminished. Something of moment is happening that has not happened before. The mass disposal of human embryos, under supervision of an agency of the state...

carded, embryos after five years. It is a cult declared by Parliament. For many people, that is the end of the story. When Parliament has acted, we can all wash our hands...

embryo, its status as a life, as an entity with rights, as "the child", seems to be fully understood. Such absence of cant might be regarded as a sign of progress. The appalling dishonesties of the old abortion debates have not survived...

Locked up for 10 years without trial



Isabel Hilton

IF Michael Howard weren't such a nice man I might be worried. But there is a category of prisoner in Mr Howard's care who might be worried by his desire to change the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees...

mitted sexual offences against children in, say, Bangkok. But Mr Howard no doubt has our wider welfare in mind in the paragraph that reads "Incitement will also help to control the activities of foreign extremists who use this country as a base to plan or encourage criminal acts abroad..."

THE Diary is reconsidering its plan to stand for Parliament in the Cotswolds. The seat to be contested for the Tories by Telegraph enforcer Boris the Jackal Johnson. We are now thinking of standing in New Forest East...

Martin Woollacott unravels the moral tangle of government and public opinion in cases such as the Bulger sentencing, Hawk-missile bashing and owning handguns

Bangs and whimpers

THERE has never been a time when governments have paid so much attention to public opinion, but equally never a time when people have felt more strongly that governments, on an issue after issue, ignore what they want...



moral restraint on personal gratification, including the kind of gratification which comes with revenge, which is why it is so often in favour of extreme measures against crime. Governments which send to public opinion in word but usually not in deed feel that resentment...

I AM concerned by the itinerary of my friend Michael Howard. Michael was with the FBI in Washington on Monday, at a conference on crime in Paris on Tuesday, and in Los Angeles yesterday to give a talk on coping with terrorists...

YET another fax bearing the letterhead Scimitar Films (what films, exactly, does it make?) has been discovered. Yes, it's Michael Winner again. This one is dated July 19, and was released in the ever-taller pile of Winner communiques...

AFTER years of training Prince Philip to become so adept at offending foreign hosts that he does it without trying. Reuters reports that, on a trip to Lapland in northern Sweden, the Duke asked someone a variation of how long they had worked there, namely "How many years do you have?" This, it turns out, is Lapland slang for "How much are you worth?"...



LIKE MY NEW SCENT? IT'S "TITAN ARUM"

argued, have lost much of their moral confidence and their respect for continuity and what has been bequeathed to them by the past, but not their willingness to hold determination to use and hold. Peoples, similarly, have lost much of their readiness to defer to authority, to expert knowledge, to intelligence, or to standards laid down by spiritual leaders. The result on both sides is a loss of perspective, a deficiency of constitutional and historical understanding, and a loosened grasp of the complexity of the considerations that ought to go into political decisions. Whether

there is a public opinion in the old sense is a matter of dispute. That meant, ideally, an opinion which arose from much local, partly spontaneous and largely unmanaged talk and debate — what came out of the coffee house, the congregation, and the town meeting. It was also an opinion that emerged among people who had a strong conception of the public interest, of what was good for all, as well as of the interests of their own classes and region. Public opinion now is notoriously influenced so much by polling, marketing and manipulation for political or commercial purposes that it is often hard to tell what is, as it were, original, and what induced. The devices of effective debate and protest — the meeting, the press campaign, even the petition — are the same as those of the advertising or public relations agency. In this more confusing world, the key question becomes how to ensure the authenticity of public opinion.

We have powerful and well-informed special issue campaigns, but a general public opinion that is often emotional and resentful more than anything else. This is also an opinion which, in the spirit of the age, hauls at any

GIVE YOUR MUM THE BEST CARE POSSIBLE. AFTER ALL, THAT'S WHAT SHE GAVE YOU. Remember when you were a child. The grazed knees. The nightmares. The measles. Who was always there to look after you? Mum. She always took the best care of you she could. Now you can do the same for her. You can find the best possible nursing home for your mum, or indeed any elderly relative, simply by calling BUPA CareFinder...

10 OBITUARIES

Claudette Colbert

Sex with a funny feeling

CLAUDETTE Colbert, who has died aged 92, was one of the greatest Hollywood stars of the 1930s, a leading exponent of screwball comedy who also proved adept in costume drama. If the enduring image of her will always be as the hitch-hiking runaway heiress in Frank Capra's It Happened One Night, her bath in acid's milk in Cecil B de Mille's The Sign of the Cross lies at the other extreme.

following year. Back in New York, she was in Fast Life, The Fan Alley, Dynamite and finally in September 1929, Sex Naples and Die — her last stage appearance for 20 years. Claudette Colbert made her first Hollywood film in 1930. For the Love of Mike, co-starring Ben Lyon and directed by Frank Capra. She arrived on the scene, with five years' stage experience, just at the moment when studios were panicking about the transition from silent to sound movies. Before the technique of dubbing had been perfected, many films were shot in simultaneous two-language versions. The French or German cast would be standing by, to replace the American players, as each scene was shot twice. Colbert, bilingual and with a voice that recorded so well, was cast opposite Maurice Chevalier in the Big Pond. As La Grande Mer, it was given a full-scale premiere in New York. Colbert's performance as the American heiress who meets Chevalier on board ship and helps him to write a hit song (You

The films in her life



Funny girl... Colbert with Gable in It Happened One Night

- For the Love of Mike, 1927; The Hole in the Wall, 1929; The Lady Lies, 1929; The Big Pond, 1930; Young Man of Manhattan, 1930; Honor Among Lovers, 1931; The Smiling Lieutenant, 1931; Secrets of a Secretary, 1931; His Woman, 1931; The Wiser Sex, 1932; Misleading Lady, 1932; The Man from Yesterday, 1932; The Phantom President, 1932; The Sign of the Cross, 1932; Tonight in Curia, 1933; I Cover the Waterfront, 1933; Three-Cornered Moon, 1933; Torch Singer, 1933; Four Frightened People, 1934; It Happened One Night, 1934; Cleopatra, 1934; Imitation of Life, 1934; The Gilded Lily, 1935; Private Worlds, 1935; The Married Men Boys, 1935; The Bride Comes Home, 1935; Under Two Flags, 1936; Maid of Salem, 1937; Met Him in Paris, 1937; Torch Singer, 1937; Bluebeard's Eighth Wife, 1938; Zaza, 1939;



Smart, canny, smooth and glamorous... Claudette Colbert, indefatigable actress from the 1920s onward

PHOTOGRAPHS: KOBAL COLLECTION

tonight is Ours (adapted from Noel Coward's The Queen was in the ParLOUR), Three Corners Moon and two more films for Cecil B de Mille followed — Four Frightened People and then the title role in Cleopatra, with another dizzying image, Cleopatra aboard her barge, reclining with Caesar while a group of African drummers beat out an accompaniment. When Frank Capra teamed Colbert with Clark Gable in It Happened One Night he achieved the same sort of electricity on screen that had already been shown to have a spectacular chemical reaction with exotic, vaguely European stars (Gary Cooper and Marlene Dietrich/Gable and Garbo, and later Bogart and Bergman). Colbert won an Academy Award for her role as Ellie Andrews, and although this made the possibility of her being forever typecast as muscap heiresses a danger, she continued to demonstrate versatility in Imitation of Life (the story of a black girl passing as white), Private Worlds, a story set in a psychiatric hospital, and a psy-

chicable version of Ouida's Under Two Flags, in which Colbert as the utantidre, dies in the embrace of Ronald Colman, who asks her if she is suffering pain. "Not when I'm in your arms," she replies — delivered with a superb low contralto tone. In the late 1930s, Colbert appeared in three of her most enjoyable films, Ernst Lubitsch's Bluebeard's Eighth Wife, Mitchell Leisen's Midnight, where her leading man were John Barrymore and Don Ameche ("I had a feeling you had a feeling," Colbert's bride to Ameche, became one of her most famous utterances), and then George Cukor's Zaza. This was the only film in which Colbert sang a solo number, provided for her by the great Friedrich Hollaender. Cukor had her coached by Fanny Brice, to achieve an authentic vaudeville feel — in the story she is part of a song and dance team with Bert Lahr. Cukor remembered (in his book with Gavin Lambert): "Claudette

became a very skilful comedienne in pictures, but she used only part of her great talent. She had a much bigger range than she chose to show." Although producers in the 1940s cast her in more dramatic parts, in films such as Mitchell Leisen's Arise My Love, Tomorrow is Foresee (with Orson Welles) and the immensely popular Since You Went Away, only one of her films from this decade has achieved classic status, and that is Preston Sturges's The Palm Beach Story.

REVIEWING the Ale and Quail Club travelling by train with their guns and dogs — in the end they shoot every glass in the bar and view-halloo down the corridors — are delicious. Sturges has a drastic hand in comedy... his heroine trips in pyjamas a foot too long, but the touch is warm... Miss Colbert at her most irresistible. The late 1940s found Colbert cast as Shirley Temple's mother (in Since You Went Away), and then in such forgettable films as The Egg and I, Family Honey-moon and Bride for Sale. Her return to the stage was in Noel Coward's Island Fling at the Country Playhouse, Westport, Connecticut. Although well received by the critics — "Her handling of the drunk scene was deft and delicious, taking the sting out of it, but never losing character", wrote George Broadley — Colbert did not reappear on Broadway until 1956, when she took over from Margaret Sullivan in Janus. She had meanwhile appeared on television opposite Noel Coward himself in Billie's Spirit, co-starring with Lauren Bacall. Like many before and after her, Colbert incurred Coward's wrath by not arriving work-perfect, insisting on being photographed from her "best side"

and, as Coward wrote in his diary, "she wore tangerine lace, black and pearls and a grey ghost dress that would have startled Gypsy Rose Lee". At the final rehearsal, Colbert told Coward: "Don't worry dear, you'll never have to see me again after Saturday." Nevertheless, they remained friends when Coward moved to Jamaica. Colbert's final films were Sacha Guitry's Si Versailles M'était Conté — in which she played Mme de Montespan — and then a mother role in Parrish in 1960. After that she continued her appearances to the stage. On Broadway, she appeared in Marriage-Go-Round, The Irregular Verb To Love, and, as late as 1978, co-starring with Rex Harrison in The Kingfisher. The two of them were starred again in London in 1984 in a revival of Frederick Lonsdale's Arise My Love. From half-way back in the stalls at the Haymarket, Colbert appeared only slightly older than she had in the 1940s.

Twice married — in 1928 to the actor Norman Foster and then in 1935 to Dr Joel J Pressman, who died in 1968 — Colbert became a social lioness at her Bellevue retreat in Barbados. In 1982, Louise Brooks commented to John Kobal: "I hear the Reagans are visiting Claudette Colbert... where'd she get all that dough?" Kobal called Colbert "one of the shrewdest women in Hollywood" and her contemporary, Irene Dunne, wrote: "She'd finish a movie on Saturday and begin wondering what she was doing on Monday. I lacked that terrifying ambition." For Hedda Hopper, who played with Claudette Colbert in Midnight in 1939, she was "the smartest, canniest, smoothest 18-carat lady I've ever seen cross the Hollywood pike." Patrick O'Connor

Claudette Lily Chauchoin (Colbert), actress, born September 13, 1903; died July 30, 1986

Roger Tory Peterson

Inspirational flight of an artist

THE contribution to the conservation and understanding of birds made by Roger Tory Peterson, who has died aged 87, may not be as well known as that of John James Audubon, America's most famous painter of birds, but his is no less significant. Peterson was instrumental in increasing the general public's interest in birds, particularly in North America but also on this side of the Atlantic. The key to this was his creation of the Field Guide System of schematic illustrations of species in which the key identification characters were indicated by an arrow.

2,000 copies had been sold. Reviewers were enthusiastic about the virtually unknown author's work. Frank Chap, of the American Museum of Natural History, one of the most influential ornithologists on the East Coast, said that 20 years previously the book could not have been written, because "at that time, bird identification was largely...". The 22-year-old Peterson was counting ducks on the Hudson River in December 1930 with a fellow birder, William Vogt, who was so impressed with the speed, accuracy and confidence with which his colleague could identify birds that he suggested he produce a guide for birdwatchers. Vogt recalled that he was more excited than Peterson and undertook, "with no justification whatsoever", to find a publisher. A Field Guide to the Birds was published by Houghton Mifflin in 1934. Vogt had approached five publishers, before approaching Boston's most prestigious firm. However, thanks to a meeting between Francis Allen, editor with the company, and Richard Pough, of the National Audubon Society, Peterson reached the publishers before Vogt's letter. Allen wanted a guarantee that the firm would not lose money on the project, to which Pough responded that he was so sure of the book's success he would have put the money up himself. Within a week of publication the entire print run of



In later life Peterson became a keen photographer, relishing the ease of taking a picture rather than drawing or painting from observation. But he still regarded himself, essentially, as a painter

Peterson left school at 16, using his talents at art as a furniture decorator in Jamestown, then a centre of furniture making. In his spare time, Peterson watched birds and painted. When he submitted two paintings to an exhibition at the American Ornithologists Union in New York in 1925, he met Louis Agassiz Fuertes. In 1934, he joined the staff of the National Audubon Society. There he worked first as a designer and artist and later as education director. After war service in the US Corps of Engineers, when he worked on training manuals and developed an aircraft recognition programme based on his Field Guide System, he turned to writing. He also revised the original field guide, produced a guide to Western birds and edited a series of field guides for Houghton Mifflin. In 1950, a meeting with James Fisher, then natural history editor at Collins, led to A Field Guide to the Birds of America, a collaboration between Peterson and the British ornithologist Guy Mountfort and P.A.D. Hollar. It has been in print continuously since 1954, and is now in its fifth edition. Published in 13 languages, it has sold more than one million copies. Peterson revised his illustrations for new editions, but, although he regarded his revisions as improvements, some disliked them. He realised that birdwatchers had begun to see birds as he had drawn them, not as they were in life. When I told him I was disappointed, at the first Alpine accent I saw, because it was not such a smart bird as his illustration, he explained that the illustration was based on skins and photographs rather than personal experience.

Peterson's stay in Europe brought him into contact with the leading naturalists of the day. On one trip to Hilsre Island in the Dee Estuary, recalled by the late Eric Hosking, Peterson was discussing the birds they had seen that day. The conversation broadened to cover many other aspects of his work. Peterson, a keen bird photographer, related a dramatic wartime meeting between Stalin and Churchill that he had witnessed. The rest of the group listened attentively, except Peterson. When Alanbrooke had finished, there was a pause and Peterson spoke: "I know, I guess these oystercatchers eat most any mollusc." His single-minded approach to his work did not make Peterson's personal life easy. He married Mildred Washington in 1936, but she did not share his almost obsessive interest in nature and the marriage was dissolved in 1942. In 1943, he married an Audubon colleague, Barbara Coulter, who contributed much to his post-war achievements. They divorced in 1976, and Peterson married Virginia Quinlan Westervelt the same year. In return for James Fisher having taken Peterson around Europe, he proposed that they make a trip around North America. They started in Newfoundland and travelled to the Yukon Delta and the Pribilof, via Mexico. The 100-day, 30,000-mile trip resulted in Wild America (1955), written by Peterson and Fisher and illustrated by Peterson. In later life, Peterson became a keen photographer, relishing the ease of taking a photograph rather than drawing or painting from observation. Photography became a preoccupation and he claimed to enjoy it more than painting.



Peterson... a huge contribution to popular interest in ornithology. His Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe (published by Collins), a plate from which is shown, left, has sold more than a million copies

but still regarded himself, essentially, as a painter. In the current issue of the American magazine Bird Watcher's Digest, Peterson writes about the history of American wildlife painting and perhaps betrays some doubt about his status as an artist as opposed to an illustrator. "Most people think of my work in terms of my rather formal field guide illustrations, but those represent only one aspect of my painting." He promised to describe other aspects of his work in the next issue. Whatever doubt Peterson

had about his work, he will be remembered both for the concept of field guides and for the illustrations he produced. The interest in birdwatching which Peterson's guides have aroused over the last 50 years has, some claim, increased the range of North American birds such as cardinals and goldfinches, as more households have put out food for them. That is quite an epitaph.

Nicholas Hammond
Roger Tory Peterson, ornithologist and artist, born August 26, 1908; died July 28, 1986

Letter
Nancy Williams writes: Jack Wallace's obituary, July 26 would not have died of Parkinson's Disease. As a sufferer for more than 10 years myself, I know that one of the few but vital scraps of comfort we have is the knowledge that it is not in itself a fatal disease. It is therefore extremely important that everyone, and particularly those newly diagnosed with this disease, are fully aware of this fundamental fact.

Birthdays
Lloyd Bart, composer, lyricist, 66; Derek Birdsall, graphic designer, and typographer, 62; Karen Black, actress, 54; Frank Hauser, stage director, 74; Mervyn Kitchen, cricket umpire, 66; Jack Kramer, tennis champion, 78; Prof Monty Losowsky, gastroenterologist, 65; Stanley Middleton, novelist, 77; Prof Wyndraeth Morris-Jones, political scientist, 78; Patrick Nixon, High Commissioner to Zambia, 52; Richard Pearson, actor, 78; Prof Ben Roberts, industrial relations expert, 78; Yuri Romanenko, Soviet cosmonaut, 52; Andy Roxburgh, football coach, 58; Yves Saint Laurent, haute couture, 66; Jeffrey Segal, actor and playwright, 78; The Rt Rev Prof Stephen Sykes, Bishop of Ely, 57; Prof Laurie Taylor, sociologist and broadcaster, 60; Gwyn Ward Thomas, former chairman, Trident Television, 73; Robert Thomas, sculptor, 72; Elizabeth Vernon, lawyer, 32; Mark Wright, footballer, 33.

Engagements
LINDSAY VERNON, daughter of Dr R G. Lecturer of Building and Heavy Laser of London and Prof J. M. G. Lecturer of Law of Kensington, have been engaged and their families are delighted. To place your announcement in England call 0171 753 4567. Fax 0171 753 4123.

staged



Lloyd's final offer is council members' gain

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Stagecoach plans rail raid

£475m bid raises monopoly fear

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

RAIL industry regulators last night warned that the rapidly expanding bus and train company, Stagecoach, could stifle competition with its £475 million bid for one of Britain's three train leasing companies.

Consolidation in the industry, enabling Stagecoach to run trains and lease rolling stock to its rivals. The Office of Fair Trading must now draw up a report for the Trade and Industry Secretary, Ian Latham, who will then decide whether to refer the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Acquisitive Scots

Perth-based Stagecoach has rapidly expanded since its flotation in 1993, before which it had taken advantage of deregulation of the bus industry to steal a march over many of its rivals.

- Hamphshire Bus Company bought in 1987 for £2.2 million
Ribble Bus Company bought in 1989
Gill Buses South (South Manchester) bought for £40.7 million
Devon and General and Bayline for £16.1 million
Cambus Holdings for £12.6 million
East Midlands Bus companies for £15.8 million
Cleveland Transit and rest of Kingsthorpe-Hull Transport for £3.36 million
South East London and Kent Bus Company for £9.5 million
Portsmouth Citybus, Lancaster City Transport and Formale (Huddersfield and District)
South West Trains, first rail franchise

Mr Swift said the deal "raised a number of important public interest issues". Brian Souter, executive chairman of Stagecoach, said he had decided to buy Porterbrook after dealing with it as a supplier for South West Trains, which provides services out of Waterloo in London to the South-west.

The Names' game draws to a close

Notebook



Edited by Mark Milner

IT'S make-your-mind-up time at Lloyd's, Names have been given 28 days to accept a package billed as "final" and which, this time, more than likely will be. Would it matter if enough of the 34,000 Names voted down the package, raising the spectre of insolvency over the market?

The answer is (probably) yes. The City would be a poorer place without Lloyd's, even after cumulative losses of £2 billion in recent years. Thousands of jobs depend, directly or indirectly, on the Lloyd's market.

Is reputation for entrepreneurial underwriting still pulls blue-chip risks into London, despite the tougher competition from the US power houses and giants in Europe. If the Names back the £3.2 billion settlement package many will take the opportunity to quit the market which, of late, has brought them little but grief.

The underwriting capacity they vacate will be taken up by corporate capital - much better placed to keep control of the oft-capricious Lloyd's underwriting rooms. The only individuals to remain will be the high rollers, with millions to risk, who are happy to take the odd knock in return for future profits and tax breaks.

This will, of course, not displace the powers that be at Lloyd's. They, like many of our large corporations, will find it easier and cheaper to deal with a handful of able investors, rather than thousands of little ones. But the downsizing of Lloyd's has been a cruel process. It is hardly surprising that the Paying Names Action Group is hopping mad.

Lloyd's may look healthier as a body which looks more like Swissairland. Porterbrook, Piquantly it is using the Government's financial muscle to help it do so. The key lies in the innovative deal Stagecoach has struck with Union Bank of Switzerland. Porterbrook would come with some £250 million of debt. In the first instance, UBS has agreed to provide a bridging loan to

refinance those borrowings and help finance the deal. Once the deal is done, Stagecoach, with help from UBS, will parcel up the debt into tradable bonds (effectively IOUs) - a process known in the City as securitisation - which will then be sold off to investors. The securitisation package could provide up to £335 million worth of debt financing. The clever twist is that the bonds will be secured against the cashflow from Porterbrook's lease agreements with the train operators. As Her Majesty's Government guarantees up to 80 per cent of the rentals payable to Porterbrook, it is little wonder that the bonds are expected to attract a triple-A rating.

The financing shown in the prospectus should not, however, obscure the serious issue of "vertical integration" raised by the deal, in that it would make Stagecoach both a train operator and an equipment supplier to other operators. Such a situation may be permissible, but it should be left to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to say so - after a full investigation of the issues.

Too Maastricht?

POLITICAL will and economic reality look to be on a collision course in France. The government may be determined to ensure that France can meet the criteria laid down for single currency membership, but the economic price is rising all the time.

Figures yesterday showed that unemployment, at 12.5 per cent, has reached an all-time high. That would be bad enough. The snag is that it is likely to get worse. Business confidence is falling. More jobs are expected to go as the government tries to cut public sector spending, including support for job creation schemes, in order to meet the Maastricht targets.

The banking and defence industries are both likely to shrink their payrolls. Growth is expected to be around 1.5 per cent this year, short of the 2 per cent figure reckoned to be needed to make a dent in the jobsless total. The unemployment figure could yet reach 13 per cent, according to some estimates.

In the short term, the government is likely to face unrest from the public sector unions as it rolls out its austerity measures. However, will be only a precursor of the more intractable battle to persuade the voters that French readiness for the single currency - or at least its ability to get somewhere close to the deficit target of 3 per cent of gross domestic product by the end of 1997 - is worth the consequences.

The timing is politically unfortunate. The impact of spending decisions will have to be felt in both 1996 and 1997 if France is to meet Maastricht's deficit criterion. Elections for the French National Assembly are scheduled for March 1998. Political will in the Elysee and the Matignon is going to be tested.

The offer



£12,370 for chairman David Rowland, £860,000 for Marie-Louise Burrows and £279,000 for Michael Deeny

The sources

Table listing sources for the offer, including managing and members' agents, accountants, and Lloyd's central fund.

Lloyd's final offer is council members' gain

Lisa Buckingham

SEVEN members of the ruling council of Lloyd's of London, including the chairman David Rowland, will benefit by a collective £1.25 million from the reconstruction package, final details of which were sent to Names yesterday. As Lloyd's despatched 34,000 copies of its 330-page settlement offer document - which gives investors 28 days to agree to a do-or-die £3.2 billion reconstruction package - it emerged that more than half the members of its market body will be beneficiaries of the deal.

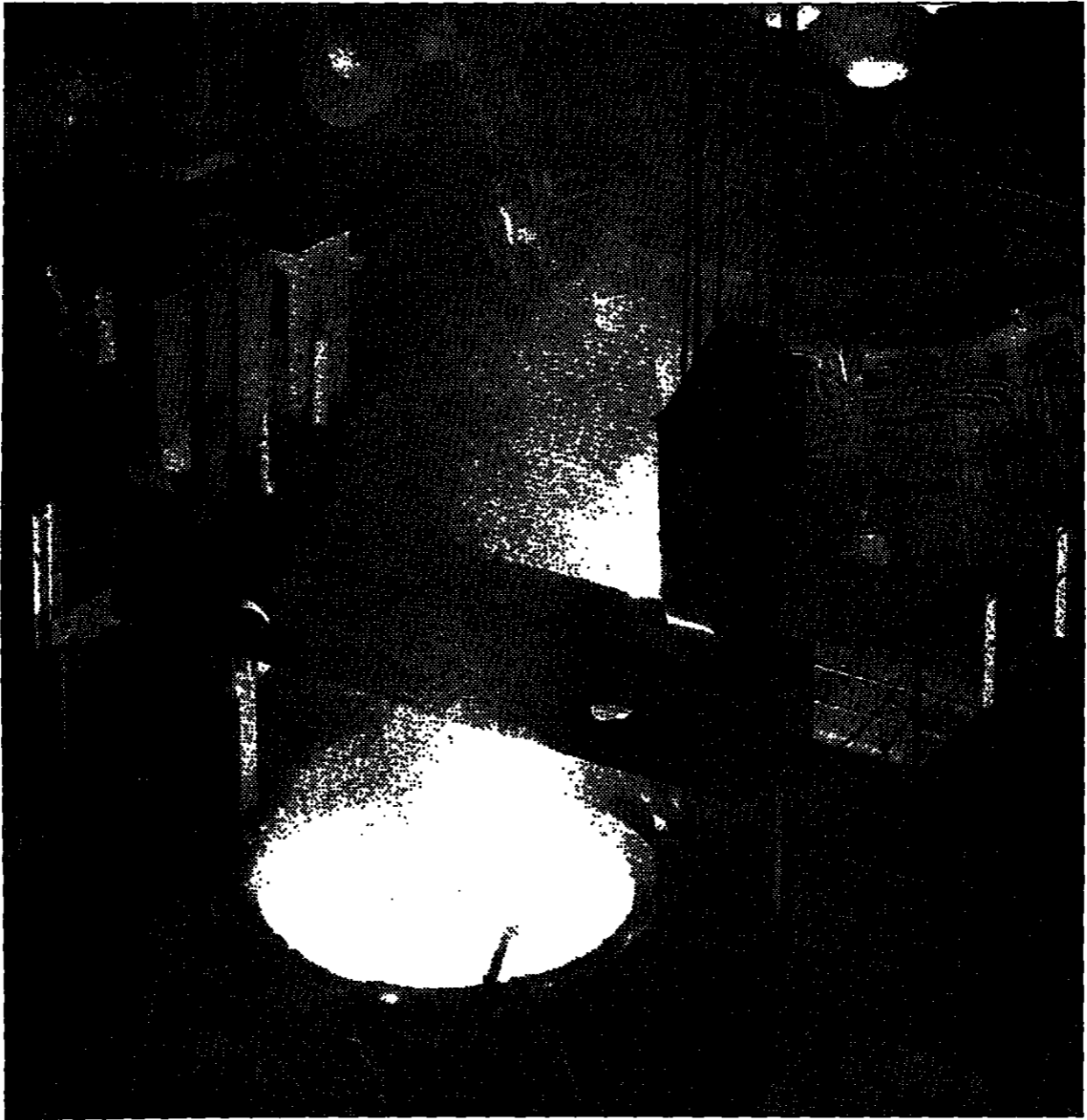
Chairman Mr Rowland will receive £12,370 of debt credits, designed to help those investors with the most disproportionate losses and those with the most difficulty in paying. Financial help to offset the losses of council members became public as Lloyd's warned its 34,000 underwriting investors that those who refused to accept the settlement - which is thought to have cost about £160 million in professional fees and additional staffing so far - would be "aggressively pursued" for their liabilities.

And, although influential groups of dissenting Names have recently thrown their weight behind the terms of the reconstruction package, Lloyd's still faces the prospect that the Paying Names Action Group will call for a judicial review and that some investors in America will decide to litigate rather than settle.

Those council members who are in line for the biggest share from the settlement offer are Marie-Louise Burrows and Michael Deeny, both of whom were leaders of groups which took legal action against the market. Ms Burrows gains £860,000 to offset her underwriting losses, while Mr Deeny benefits by nearly £279,000.

Already it is clear that Lloyd's fears it may have to draw down more than the expected £200 million of a £300 million syndicated bridging facility, designed to cover any shortfall caused by Names who do not pay. In a letter to Names, Mr Rowland said he "deeply regretted" the losses and suffering incurred by Names. He was aware that the settlement offer did not match all expectations. Chief executive, Ron Sandler, warned, however, that this was the market's "final" offer and failure to secure agreement from Names by the end of the month could doom Lloyd's to insolvency.

But Mr Sandler said he was convinced that the plan, which he said offered "affordable" finality, and an end to litigation, was an advantage to members.



Now for our next trick... workers from closed steelworks, such as Tinsley Park, Sheffield, will retrain on EU schemes

Jobs go

TWO thousand jobs were put in danger yesterday when cuts were announced by Royal & Sun Alliance, the insurer, and the TV and video retailer Colorvision. According to R&SA, the direct branch operations had already been deemed "uneconomic" before the merger talks took place. Only five branches will remain - in London, Belfast, Hove, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. Most business is already conducted by telephone. The job cuts were condemned by the finance union Bifa. "R&SA staff are being made to pay the price for its merger just to satisfy shareholders' demands for profits," said a spokeswoman. Another 3,700 job losses are expected within the next few months as part of the company's restructuring plans to save £175 million a year. "This is just the tip of the iceberg," said Trevor May, insurance analyst at Salomon Brothers. "There is plenty of scope for getting rid of further head office and systems duplication." Another 700 jobs are in danger at Colorvision, which has struggled to trade within its overdraft limit following poor sales and a run-in with the Office of Fair Trading. In January, Colorvision became the first public company to have its consumer credit licence revoked for a series of misdemeanours. After a boardroom reshuffle in May, the Liverpool-based company appealed against the revocation. But in a statement issued yesterday, Colorvision directors said sales had not recovered from the "highly damaging" effects of adverse publicity.

Jobs come

Brussels gives ex-steel towns £20m

Chris Barrie
Business Correspondent

ALMOST 2,000 jobs and 225 new businesses will be created in the North of England following the European Commission's decision to award £20 million to English regions hit by steel closures. The award, which has to be matched by private and public sector funds, is more than three times greater than aid given under a previous programme, which expired in 1992. Keith Brookman, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said steelworkers all over Britain were without work because of plant closures. The initiative would help them to retrain. Roger Stone, chairman of Steel Action, a coalition of local authorities from steel regions, said his organisation had fought for the cash for more than a year. Greg Knight, the industry Minister, welcomed the announcement and said that the aid followed lengthy negotiation with Brussels. The Commission said the aid was in line with its decision to make the UK the largest recipient in the Community of aid aimed at alleviating the effect of industrial decline.

Tracking back

THE Government expended great effort and not a little of taxpayers' money in dismantling British Rail. Now Stagecoach, known as a bus company, is trying to put parts of BR back together again. Already a train operator, it revealed yesterday that it is seeking to acquire Porterbrook, which leases rolling stock. Piquantly it is using the Government's financial muscle to help it do so. The key lies in the innovative deal Stagecoach has struck with Union Bank of Switzerland. Porterbrook would come with some £250 million of debt. In the first instance, UBS has agreed to provide a bridging loan to

Home repossession dips but human misery goes on

Margaret Hughes
Personal Finance Editor

THE number of homes repossessed by mortgage lenders fell slightly in the first half of this year. But this still means that almost 1,000 are going each week despite the reported pick-up in the housing market. Figures published yesterday by the Council of Mortgage Lenders show that 24,100 homes were taken into possession in the first six months of this year. This was 111 fewer than in the second half of last year and 1,100 less than a year ago, when repossessions rose for the first time in almost four years.

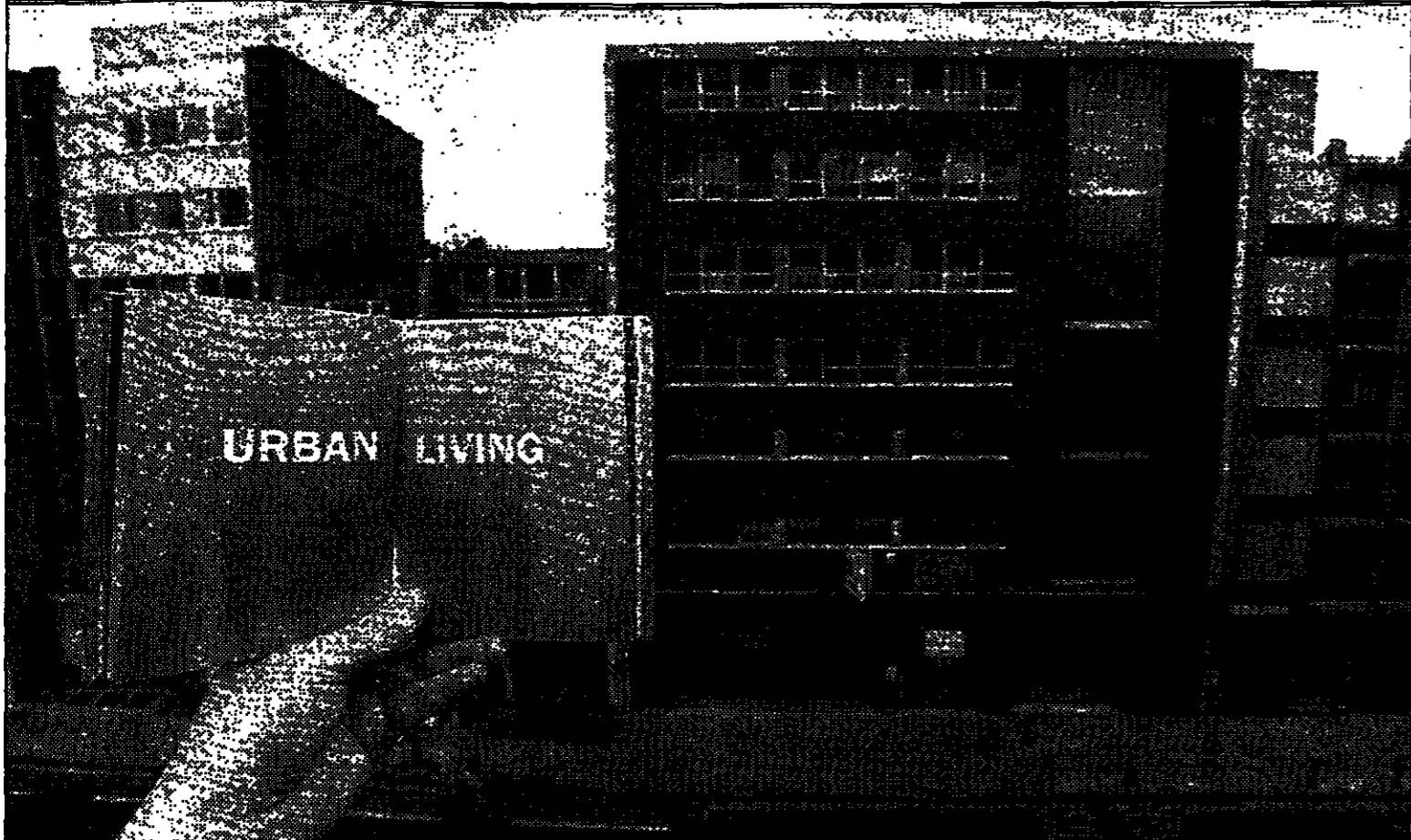
Announcing the latest figures, which are the lowest since the first half of 1990, Adrian Coles, director-general of the CML, said: "While this is not exactly good news, it is better news, for the situation is at least stable." He pointed to "good news" on the arrears front, where there have been sharp falls, with total arrears down 10 per cent on the second half of last year and 15 per cent lower than a year ago. But Mr Coles expressed concern that once the full effect of last year's cutbacks in the income support mortgage safety net began to be felt, "this could have a detrimental impact on the attempts by both lenders and borrowers to manage mortgage arrears".

Mr Coles said a key to re-establishing a firm downward trend in repossessions was "a gradual recovery in the housing market, not a rapid boom followed by bust". The Shadow Housing Minister, Nick Raynsford, argued that the latest figures showed "the Tories have done nothing to stem this tide of human misery".

Table of TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and USA.

TEACHERS' BUILDING SOCIETY
NOTICE TO INVESTORS
List of interest rates for various terms and deposits.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, likely from an adjacent page or a scanning artifact.



URBAN LIVING

Marketing patter that gets over even the trickiest block

IN MARKETING, there are always challenges: promoting the Princess of Wales, or the Sellfield nuclear reprocessing plant. Then there is a real challenge - selling what is probably London's ugliest building, writes Dan Atkinson. Sixty-six St John Street, in the no-man's land between the City and Islington, is a post-war office

block that gives post-war office blocks a bad name. Box-shaped and featureless, it could be the admin department of a provincial university or a secondary modern school. It could be almost anything, but it couldn't be a block of luxury flats. Could it? Yes, according to Ivory Gate, the developer so de-

termined to lure discerning, wealthy, people to live there that it has published an expensive all-colour hardback book (above) packed with photographs and fairly free-associating text praising the site. The office block is dead, long live the 14-flat development that is "heading towards the 21st century".

The photographs would suggest to the outsider a nightmarish freak-scape. A woman tries to eat what appears to be a packet of cigarettes. A transport café stands empty. Lights shine from a cold, futuristic, soul-less building (on closer inspection, the revamped 66 St John Street).

Cream missing as Dairy Crest floats shares

Rogier Cowe DAIRY Crest, the former Milk Marketing Board subsidiary, became the latest victim of the stock market's lack of enthusiasm for new issues when it announced yesterday that its share price would be only 155p. The price values the company at £171 million, below earlier expectations, which had been in the range of £200 million to £250 million. Turbulent stock markets have not helped the appetite for new issues, which has been dulled by a rash of major companies such as British Energy. Investors have been wary of these issues because of doubts about the underlying value of the companies in the face of difficult product markets. Several companies, notably in the biotechnology sector, have been forced to abandon planned flotations. Allied Carpets fared reasonably well, but was forced to float at a price below original intentions, as was British Energy. The Somersfield supermarket group had to cut its announced price twice to enable the issue to be underwritten. Unlike Somersfield, Dairy Crest did not suffer the indignity of publicly having to reduce its offer price, since the company had not previously indicated a flotation value. But John Aston of

BAT celebrates as 338 billion cigarettes help create surprise profits increase

Ian King BAT Industries, the cigarettes and financial services combine, yesterday shrugged off weakness in certain tobacco markets with a better-than-expected jump in first half pre-tax profits to £1.33 billion. The 12 per cent improvement, far better than most City forecasters had expected, sent BAT shares up 22p to 504p. Chairman Lord Cairns said BAT was making good progress, adding that the group's restructuring into two distinct businesses would help growth. On the tobacco side, where BAT's international brands include Benson & Hedges, Lucky Strike, Kent, and State Express 555, trading profits rose by 7 per cent on last year's record performance to £784 million, fuelled by the sale of 338 billion cigarettes worldwide - a 4 per cent improvement - during the first half of the year. Commenting on potential litigation problems in the US, Lord Cairns said the climate of opinion remained extremely hostile ahead of this year's presidential election, despite what he called the tobacco industry's "attempt to get science back into the debate". Meanwhile, on the financial services side, where BAT recently "rolled-up" its brands - including Allied Dunbar, Threadneedle Asset Management and Eagle Star - into one umbrella company, profits rose by 3 per cent to £551 million, despite losses on the British underwriting side.

Glaxo in need of a tonic

OUTLOOK/More products required as Zantac sales fall, says Roger Cowe

GLAXO'S acquisition of Wellcome last year was widely seen as a defensive move to protect the company from the rapid sales decline of ulcer drug Zantac. Chief executive Sir Richard Sykes put it more positively, as a way of keeping ahead in a consolidating drug industry and of achieving greater efficiencies essential to stay competitive. Both were probably true, and both are evident in a confusing set of results for the first six months of the year, published yesterday. On the face of it, the takeover has been a resounding success, with profits bounding ahead and a substantial increase in sales. But, in fact, the results hide as much as they reveal. This is because last year's figures include Wellcome for only part of the period, the fact that they include the £700 million reorganisation charge, and because of unusual trading patterns both last year and this. On a more comparable basis, the picture is less vibrant, but still very posi-

tive. Sales are 5 per cent higher, excluding all the distortions, while trading profits were up by a third, with the profit margin rising from 31 per cent to 39 per cent. Sir Richard described the results as "a tangible demonstration of integration savings coming through". It seems cheerful, therefore, for investors to drive down the share price. But, one again, all is not as it seems and there were a number of disappointments. First, sales growth of 5 per cent was a long way short of the 9 per cent which had been reported for the first quarter at the annual meeting. In particular, the decline of Zantac in the US appears to have accelerated rapidly in the past couple of months. Second, Glaxo stressed that the growth in profit margin was unusual and would not be sustained in the second half of the year. Third, there was no increase in the interim dividend. Zantac's decline underlines why Glaxo needed to bolster its product portfolio. It remains by far the largest product, a quarter of total sales with more than

Glaxo Wellcome. Stock market value £31.5 bn. Share price 394.5p. Workforce 52,000. Interest cover 18. Sales 4,180m +16%. Pre-tax profit 1,241m +32%. Earnings before tax 25.7p +22%. Dividend/share 12.2p. Key products: Sales, 2m. % change. Zantac +16%, Zovirax +4%, Imigran +79%, Venlofin -3%, Zinnat +6%.

Direct flights to 35 destinations. Dreamliner tickets. 50% off. CALL 0999 22 22 22 any time.

MEANWHILE, the DSS had its very own media minder at hand on Tuesday when the Pensions Ombudsman, Dr Julian Farnand, published his annual report. Dr Farnand ran the show pretty well without any help; indeed, the DSS man did not participate in any way. So why was he there? As the spin doctor put it: "To make sure he doesn't say that Peter Lilley is a bastard."

Underside Dan Atkinson JOHN Prescott is reportedly "fuming" about the failure of Tony Blair's office to consult him before condemning the Tube strike. But a minion assured him it was nothing personal: "The only reason we didn't consult you is that we knew you wouldn't agree."

NICE to be wanted (2): Decent of the European Union's script fund (part of Brussels' European media programme) to support BBC's thrilling four-parter 'Writing on the Wall', which concluded this week. The twist in the tale, of course, was that the British were the buddies and had triggered a murderous terrorist campaign in order to keep Brother Yank in Europe and the Germans in their place. No doubt Brussels would have been every bit as generous in its support had the villains turned out to be murderous Europhiliacs or power-crazed Union commissioners. Even so...

The French have finally perfected the art of toilet humour. After a stag night prank went horribly wrong, Laurent Robertin was forced to get married with a luo seat still glued to his behind.

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First Island cuts down

Wood with...

Plymouth runners

Handwritten signature or scribble.

Racing

First Island finish cuts down Forest

Chris Hawkins sees the Pentire colours flash home to claim another major prize

FIRST Island ran the race of his life to land the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood yesterday, producing a brilliant turn of speed to beat Charnwood Forest by a length to give Geoff Wragge and Michael Hills their second Group One contest in five days following Pentire's epic Ascot victory. Wragge certainly has the Indian sign over rival trainer Saeed bin Suroor, who has saddled the runner-up in both races, and there would be no point in the two of them sitting down at a poker table at the moment. Not that the silver-haired Wragge has ever been a bluffer. This most conservative but professional of trainers has always got on quietly with the business of producing winners and has consistently come up with horses of the highest calibre. He is as calm in victory as he is in defeat, and he needs some prompting but said of First Island: "He's always been a very nice, versatile horse but has had problems all his life. He put a stifle out terribly when he was younger but we got him right. He's improving all the time and keep him in training next year. The plan now is probably to go back to a mile and a quarter for the International at York."

The news that First Island stays in training is particularly welcome following the disappointing decision to sell Pentire to Japan. John Ferguson, spokesman for Moller Racing, owner of both animals, defended the sale saying: "Obviously our heart is in England and the money received from Pentire will be re-invested in yearlings. I think that British breeders will benefit." There were no excuses for the defeat of Charnwood Forest, the even-money favourite. He struck the front a furlong out but simply could not contain the finishing burst of First Island, ridden with super-confidence by Hills. "I was on the inside but knew I had a nice bit of horse under me to get out if I got a bit of luck and the gap came," said Hills, who later completed a double on his father's In Command (the first winning favourite of the meeting) in the Selsey Maiden Stakes. Hills is on cloud 12 this season after winning the Derby and King George but has had little time to celebrate: "At this time of year it's very hectic and I'm always in the car. There are a lot of tired jockeys in the Derby and I was fatigued or not, his brother Richard was stood down for seven days for "irresponsible" riding on the Champagne Stakes after finishing second to Futra. Hills was disqualified and placed last after interfering with Air Express as Hills pulled him off the rail for a run.

Many thought the stewards' decision was harsh but Hills executed a definite manoeuvre and it was, therefore, deemed more serious than mere "casualty" riding. Hills only took the mount because Willie Carson failed to pass the doctor after his fall last Friday. "The doctor hummed and hahed," said Carson. "I said I could probably get my teeth and ride but he said I had better take things easy." Futra was put in at 20-1 for the 2,000 Guineas by Ladbrokes after a game effort to get the better of Salm. Richard Quinn had earlier won on Southern Power and was partnering his 100 winner of the season on Futra, but could have made things easier for his mount who was twice denied an opening. Paul Cole, the trainer, has the Dewhurst in mind for Futra who is a tall, leggy colt described by his trainer as "a natural athlete." Luca Cumani, the Newmarket trainer, must have suspected his luck was in when Grapeshot was promoted to second on the disqualification of Salm and it was irrefutably confirmed later in the afternoon when Frequent and Exaltata provided him with a double. Frequent gave Cumani a second win in the Tote Gold Trophy Handicap in three years following the triumph of Midnight Legend in 1994. A Life Of A Lord defied topweight under an interesting ride from Charlie Swan to win yesterday's Galway Plate for the second year running.



Weighing up form... runners for the first race at Goodwood yesterday come under scrutiny

Golden chance for Hills to atone

WITH any sort of a run, Ansumah would have won the Bunbury Cup at Newmarket instead of finishing fourth, and he must hold a leading chance in today's Schweppes Golden Mile at Goodwood, writes Chris Hawkins. Richard Hills rode one of his least distinguished races on Almuhim, switching the colt off the rails far too late to trouble the winner Crumpton Hill although in the end beaten just over a length. Meeting the third Mull-tower and fifth How Long on the same terms, Almuhim (3.50) is virtually a winner without a penalty. It is quite possible, of course, that as he likes to come from behind he could encounter traffic problems again and there will be plenty ready to take advantage, including the progressive Fregaron who does not mind being in front some way from home. Paul Cole has withdrawn his highly rated unraced two-year-old The West from the Richmond Stakes which looks best left to Raphane (2.45), who won comfortably at The Curragh after finishing second to Tipy Creek at Royal Ascot. Three-year-olds get a hefty weight concession in the Goodwood Cup and I take Persian Punch (3.20) to make it count. He clocked a decent time when beating the Queen's Vase runner-up Athenry at Newmarket.

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Goodwood with form guide for the televised races

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include 2.15 Pentire, 2.42 Raphane, 3.20 Persian Punch, 3.50 Almuhim, 4.25 GUMTELLANA (cont), 5.00 Jock Venture, 5.55 The Fast Forward.

Delag Guard to Run, 4. Devoted Midburn. Down 1/2 lengths but over 7/8 a ton. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since latest outing.

BBC-2

Table of race results for BBC-2, including race numbers, names, and winners.

BBC-2

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BBC-2

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Table of race results for BBC-2, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Salisbury card tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include 4.05 Desert Governor, 4.35 Sirdan, 7.05 Polish Warrior, 7.35 Ballpoint, 8.05 Ordeal, 8.35 Manchester (alt).

Outing Guard to Run, 4. Devoted Midburn. Down 1/2 lengths but over 7/8 a ton. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since latest outing.

7.35 SPIRE FM HANDICAP 2YO

Table of race results for 7.35 SPIRE FM HANDICAP 2YO, including race number, names, and winners.

8.05 DOWNING HILLS FILLIES HANDICAP 3YO

Table of race results for 8.05 DOWNING HILLS FILLIES HANDICAP 3YO, including race number, names, and winners.

8.35 BARBADOS FILLIES HANDICAP 3YO

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7.05 TOTTENHAM STAKES 2YO

Table of race results for 7.05 TOTTENHAM STAKES 2YO, including race number, names, and winners.

7.20 TOTTENHAM STAKES 2YO

Table of race results for 7.20 TOTTENHAM STAKES 2YO, including race number, names, and winners.

7.50 DONCASTER ROYAL HANDICAP 2YO

Table of race results for 7.50 DONCASTER ROYAL HANDICAP 2YO, including race number, names, and winners.

Yarmouth runners and riders

Table listing runners and riders for Yarmouth races, including race numbers, names, and jockeys.

Results

Table of race results for various tracks, including Goodwood, Doncaster, and Yarmouth.

Doncaster evening programme

Table of race results for Doncaster evening programme, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Doncaster

Table of race results for Doncaster, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Doncaster

Table of race results for Doncaster, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Vertical text on the right margin: "be the natural counterparts of this 1 superiority. The recent..."

OLYMPIC GAMES

Holmes will risk worse injury in medal quest

Athletics

Stephen Bierley

KELLY HOLMES confirmed yesterday that she has a hair-above her left ankle. But she is prepared to risk long-term damage in pursuit of a medal in Saturday's 1500m final. She qualified for today's semi-final finishing second in her heat in 4:31.77. She needed a pain-killing injection 90 minutes before her race yesterday. "I think I have as good a chance as anybody of winning and I'm ready to risk everything," she said. Holmes arrived at the British pre-Olympic training camp in Tallahassee with the problem, having already missed a couple of weeks' training because of sinusitis. News of the injury filtered out slowly, with Holmes initially denying there were any problems. By the time she arrived in Atlanta there was talk of a stress fracture but this was then downgraded to bruising. Holmes duly reached Monday's 800m final, where she finished fourth. It is understood that she was advised not to run for fear of doing permanent damage. "I don't care," the 26-year-old Army sergeant said yesterday. "Ever since I was 14 I've wanted to run in the Olympics. I've trained for these Games for so long that I don't intend pulling out now." She knows the price. Once the Olympics are over, she said, she will not running again this season and will therefore miss the lucrative Grand Prix meetings in Zurich, Brussels and Berlin and the Grand Prix final in Milan. It will take at least six weeks for the fracture to heal. She had an X-ray on Tuesday. "The worst scenario is that I will have to have a steel plate put in; the best is that I will get the medal on Saturday," she said. Holmes had concentrated her training this season on the 800m and believes that, but for the injury, she would have won gold. "I missed four weeks of specialist training, I was aiming to concentrate on speed work for the final 120 metres and that missed training cost me the race." She suffered from shin splints in the winter before last year's world championships, where she won silver in the 1500 and bronze in the 800. Last winter she had her



Distant figure... Sonia O'Sullivan trails again, last but one in yesterday's 1500 metres heat and humidity. ROSS KENNEDY

Bubka bows out again without a vault or a dollar

Athletics

Duncan Mackay

SERGEI BUBKA, a superman between Olympics, was again reduced to mortality when it mattered. The pole-vaulter who has won five consecutive world titles and set more world records than any other athlete in history is almost certain to end his career with only one Olympic title, after an Achilles injury forced him to withdraw from the qualifying competition yesterday without taking a jump. In Barcelona Bubka was one of the firm favourites of the Games but failed to clear a single height in his final. He had waited four years to erase that blot and he looked a forlorn figure as he limped away from the centre of the arena. The long ovation he received will have been of little consolation. The injury first manifested itself in April. It appeared to have cleared up after an intensive course of cortisone injections but flared up again after he competed in Padua on July 12. It is like a bad dream, he said. "I tried everything that was possible with my doctor to heal it. Now it is all over and it is

a great tragedy for me. Yesterday I had two injections but I couldn't run during the warm-up today. Normally I am a fighter but it would have been damaging for me to continue. These two injuries proved that the Olympic Games are not meant for me." He won his only Olympic gold at Seoul in 1988. By Sydney in 2000 he will be 36. Bubka has broken the world indoor and outdoor records 35 times, usually by a single centimetre to maximum money bonuses from sponsors of around \$50,000. His last world outdoor record was 6.14 metres in Sestriere two years ago. Bubka's absence in today's final should have left the field clear for Olcott Britts to become the first South African athlete to win an Olympic gold medal since the sports boycott was lifted four years ago. But Britts, one of only four men ever to have cleared six metres, was knocked out after clearing three times at his opening height of 5.80. He did the same at the Commonwealth Games two years ago. "I don't know what went wrong," he said. "I'm not going to make any excuses because of my foot or anything." British Nick Buitendijk and Neil Winter were also knocked out at 5.50, each having cleared 5.40.

Zenovka again sees gold snatched from his grasp

Modern

Robert Woodward

EDUARD ZENOVKA had his share of misfortune, but life still seems to enjoy kicking him in the face. The Russian had thrown away his medals in pentathlon gold at Barcelona after leading by a healthy 106 points going into the final discipline. Unfortunately that was riding, and Zenovka and horses just did not seem to get on. He was thrown twice, lost his hat, built up a war-chest of penalty points for hitting jumps and overrunning the allotted time, and ended up with the bronze medal. Six months later Zenovka was involved in a car accident in which his passenger, the world champion rhythmic gymnast Oksana Kostina, was killed. Zenovka was critically injured. Now, on Tuesday, Olympic glory beckoned him again. Heading into the last bend of the 4,000 metres, the final discipline, behind him Aleksandr Farygin of Kazakhstan

had seemingly accepted he would take only silver. Farygin raised his arms in surrender but seconds later found a burst of acceleration that took him past the despairing Zenovka in the final 10 metres. The Russian was devastated and his body seemed suddenly to give up. His legs went and he pitched head-first onto the dirt floor of the equestrianism stadium. He managed to get up and stagger across the line for the silver before officials grabbed his arms and laid him down for treatment. It was even more heartbreaking because in the fourth discipline, the riding, Zenovka had this time earned 1,016 out of a maximum 1,100 points. That enabled him to start 45 seconds behind the leader Cesare Toraldo of Italy in the time-handicapped 4,000 metres, one of his strengths. Britain's Richard Phelps could not add to the world championship title he won in 1983, finishing 18th. The scrap-metal merchant from Gloucestershire had prolonged his career to the age of 35 to try to improve on the team bronze medal he won at the Seoul Games in 1988 but was unable to match previous performances. — Reuters

Tuesday in Atlanta

Table of sports results for Tuesday, August 1, 1986. Columns include event name, medalist names, and their countries. Events include Men's 1,000m Kayak Singles, Archery, Badminton, Soccer, and various cycling events.

Table of sports results for Wednesday, August 2, 1986. Columns include event name, medalist names, and their countries. Events include Women's 1,000m Kayak Singles, Archery, Badminton, Soccer, and various cycling events.

Table of sports results for Thursday, August 3, 1986. Columns include event name, medalist names, and their countries. Events include Men's 500m Kayak Singles, Archery, Badminton, Soccer, and various cycling events.

Table of sports results for Friday, August 4, 1986. Columns include event name, medalist names, and their countries. Events include Men's 500m Kayak Pairs, Archery, Badminton, Soccer, and various cycling events.

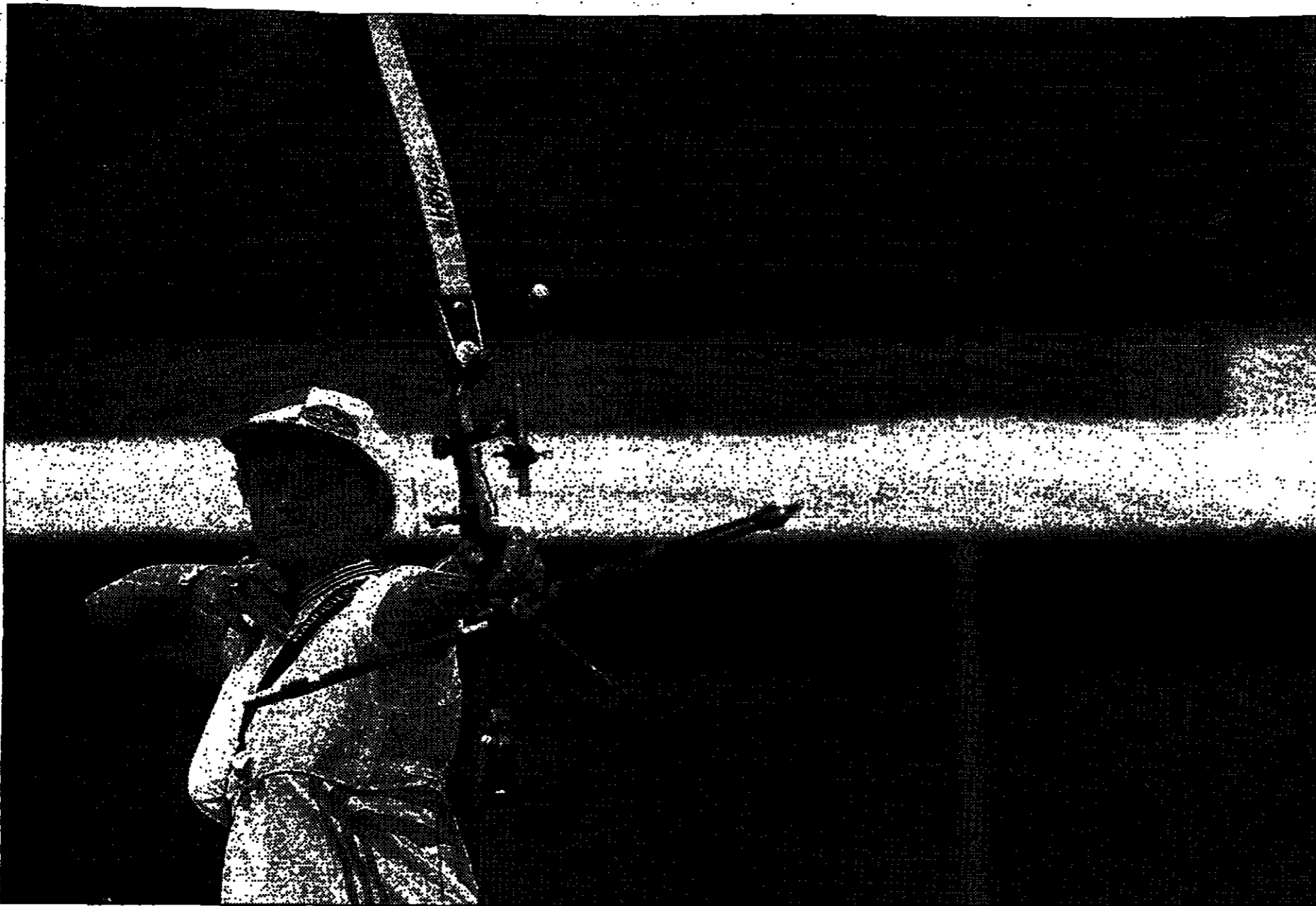


McMahon... failed drug test

Frazier talk



OLYMPIC GAMES



British option pays Sciandri in bronze

Cycling Martin Ayres

THE Anglo-Italian Max Sciandri finished third in yesterday's road race, earning Britain's first road racing medal for 40 years and vindicating his decision to opt for the British team last season after being cold-shouldered by the Italian selectors.

the end of this year of the US-backed Motorola team. Sciandri snatched the initiative in the final sprint with 300 metres to go but was closely marked by Richard, who overtook him and crowned a brilliant season, which included victory on stage 12 of the Tour and a win in the Liège-Bastogne-Liège World Cup race.

TO ENLIVEN the search for another British medalist, there was no choice but to add the fall-safe ingredient: sex, writes David Hopps. Alison Williamson's pre-Olympic publicity had included a topless pose in Esquire magazine, bowstring drawn tastefully

across a nipple. An uncustomary way to try to stir a nation's sporting interest. The photograph had the mood of those opening sequences in the old James Bond movies, when British charm and cool were sufficient to control the world. If only our gold medal tally

could have remained top secret. Until Simon Terry won an individual bronze in Barcelona, the last famous British archer had been Eros; and judging by the high divorce rate, even his arrows are not as potent as they used to be.

Williamson failed to change the trend, losing in the last 16 to He Yang, of China, ranked second in the world. "Aw, Gawd, you're not going to ask me about that photograph?" she said. "I'm an impulsive person and it sounded like a bit of

fun at the time. It certainly wasn't an attempt at attracting sponsorship. That whole subject makes me so angry; archery is an Olympic sport but it isn't even on the approved list for the new academy [of sport]. Williamson, a quarter-finalist in Barcelona, ac-

cepted a sports scholarship at Arizona State University, and majored in social work, "because no one was offering the same opportunities in Britain." Yesterday she shot respectably, but 165-159 told its own story: another British defeat.

Frazier takes bitter bit-part in a battle of ideals

Boxing Peter Nichols

Peter Nichols

JOE FRAZIER still looked articulate with his fists. Introduced to the crowd at the Alexander Memorial Coliseum, the former world heavyweight champion bowed, tipped his Panama and shadow-boxed, just like he used to. It excited the loudest roar of the afternoon in the packed amphitheatre, which was no mean feat.



Best of enemies... the Cuban boxer Juan Hernandez progresses to a middleweight semi-final PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Backstage, Frazier was not so articulate. He was ostensibly there to promote the lightweight Terrance Cautchen, who fights out of the Frazier gym in Philadelphia. But Cautchen, who has reached the semi-finals, does not need a great deal of help in terms of self-publicity. In the ring he is unproven, spending most of his time doing what Smokin' Joe did not do: avoiding the blows. He does not yet spend enough time throwing them, and unlike Frazier the 20-year-old talks better than he fights.

"Would you like your son to follow in that guy's footsteps? I did my job as a fighter. He tried to kill me, I killed him. If you listen to the things that the Lord says, I don't think the Lord agrees. I think it was the hand of the Lord that touched him." It was foolish, tasteless nonsense from a man shackled by the past, unable to live in the present. Loud as the chest for Frazier in the auditorium was, it is the ageing and palsied Ali who has the heart of the nation and the respect of a planet — not Smokin' Joe.

While all this was going on, across the way in the bearpit of an arena another Cuban, Juan Hernandez, was qualifying for a semi-final in the same manner that Frazier and Ali have suffered each other as enemies for 30 years, so the Americans and Cubans have hardly been the best of friends.

It does not matter that the hatred is preposterous, like a bull kicking a mouse. It does not matter that in every other sport (apart from Olympic baseball) the Americans over-

whelm Cuba. What matters to the Americans is that Cuba represents an idealised evil, a community that survives without capitalism. And what also matters is that not since Leon Spinks defeated Sixto Sorla in the 1976 Olympic light-heavyweight final has an American boxer beaten a Cuban at the Olympics. Already in these Games, two boxers in the lowly rated US team have fallen to Cuban opponents.

into the ring, will positively grow if Nate Jones of the United States and the defending champion, Felix Savon of Cuba, win their semi-finals and meet in the heavyweight final. That would be the apex of the rivalry, in a tournament that could yet see six Cuban-US matches in all. So far, the US successes have come out of the ring. The reigning Olympic bantamweight champion Joel Casamayor and the former light-middleweight amateur world champion Ramon Garbey

both defected from Cuba before the Games had started. This week one of their coaches, Mariano Leva, joined them in leaving his country behind. Leva, who was coaching the Mexican team, waited until the last of his boxers had been beaten in the tournament, then drove down with friends to Miami.

On Tuesday, as Leva was making his press statement in Florida, Casamayor and Garbey, who walked out of a Mexican training camp in late June, held a press conference in Atlanta to announce their new professional contracts. Alongside them sat two former Cuban defectors, Diobelyn Hurtado and Mario Iribarren, and at the conference was a lawyer, Luis Decabas, whose "Team Freedom" organisation is supporting the Cuban defectors.

Casamayor and Garbey announced that they had signed contracts with the veteran trainer Lou Duva and his Main Events promotion company. "These guys are so advanced that they will be ready to fight for titles by their 10th or 12th professional fight," said Duva's son Dino.

The conference broke down in chaos, as these things are inclined to, when a Dominican promoter counter-claimed that he already had the boxers under contract. It was business as usual: welcome to America.

With only four days to go in the tournament, rumours still persist that Fidel Castro will pay a visit to a town where a pipe bomb is exploded in a crowded park to no apparent political purpose, the trip would seem to bear a considerable risk for Cuba's veteran president. In the bearpit they would go wild.

Or maybe not. Underneath his wildly patriotic skin, the Southerner is a profoundly polite animal. If Castro did make an entrance, the crowd might even applaud.

Irish distance runner tests positive after taking painkiller

Drugs

Duncan Mackay

AN IRISH runner, Marie McMahon, yesterday became the sixth competitor to test positive for drugs at the centennial Games as the International Olympic Committee faced its first test of the special arbitration court established to hear appeals from suspended athletes.

McMahon, who came 14th in the heats of last Friday's 5,000 metres, tested positive after taking two banned painkillers for a leg injury, and now faces a three-month ban.

The 21-year-old McMahon, based at Providence University in Rhode Island, appears to be another athlete who has narrowly fallen foul of the sport's tough doping laws. "It was an entirely innocent mistake," she said. "I never believed I would test positive, otherwise I would never have taken them."

McMahon, who comes from Ennistymon in Co. Clare, is the US national collegiate indoor 5,000 metres champion and finished 23rd in the world cross-country championships in Cape Town in March. She is only the second Irish athlete to fail a drugs test: the first, the long jumper Jonathan Kron, tested positive in 1994 for stimulants.

Arbitration for Sport against the disqualification of their swimmer Andrei Kornov and Greco-Roman wrestler Zefar Guliyev, both for Broomantian. If the appeal fails, Britain's Nick Gillingham will be awarded the bronze medal in the 200 metres breaststroke.

Broomantian is so new to drug-testing circles that it does not appear by name on the IOC banned list, falling instead into a category of "relative substances". The Russians argue that the drug is neither a stimulant nor listed by the IOC so it should not be considered an offence to take it.

Drug testers admit that before these Games they had never before come across the drug. The only reference to Broomantian in any scientific journals have all appeared in Russian. The drug acts on the central nervous system, affecting the way the brain uses dopamine, a compound produced by the body. It reduces fatigue and helps the body tolerate high temperatures — a big boost in hot and humid Atlanta.

The IOC has also announced that the Lithuanian coach Boris Vasiliev has been banned from the Games and the team doctor Vitaly Silanovskiy excluded from all Olympic competitions or qualifying events until the 2000 Games in Sydney as punishment resulting from the case of the cyclist Rita Razmatie, disqualified after also testing positive for Broomantian.

Advertisement for the Alfa Romeo 155. It features a large image of the car and text: "AND IN THE FAST LANE IS THE ALFA 155 WITH ITS NEW 1.8 TWIN SPARK 16V 140BHP ENGINE. FROM £15,580 ON THE ROAD. ANOTHER GOLD FOR ITALY. CALL 0800 718 000 FOR YOUR NEAREST DEALER. ALFA 155. ANOTHER OF MAN'S GREAT SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS."

Vertical text on the right margin: "reference and file) to the Personnel Department, University of T. Promoting equal opportunities. PL4 8AA."

Sports Guardian

Golden shot for Henman and Broad

Tennis
Peter Nichols

NEIL BROAD and Tim Henman ensured a silver medal at least for Britain when they defeated the Germans Marc Goellner and David Prinosil 4-6, 6-3, 10-8 in their doubles semi-final at the Stone Mountain Centre.

"After two penalty shoot-outs I think we were owed one against the Germans," said Henman later, tongue firmly in cheek.

The 21-year-old arrived in Atlanta on a high after his rapturous Wimbledon fortnight only to be brought quickly down to earth in the singles by the Australian doubles specialist Todd Woodbridge.

"I was very disappointed," said Henman, "but I don't find it difficult to pick myself up."

That second-round exit at least allowed Henman to develop his partnership with Broad. The South African-born Broad's nerve proved vital in this match, but on court the signals and the calls are with Henman.

The Britons came to Atlanta with a solitary Davis Cup doubles behind them as the sum total of their experience together on court. They lost that first match, in Slovakia, but avenged it when they defeated the same opponents, Jan Krosiak and Karol Kucera, in the first round here.

They then disposed of the No. 2 seeds, Canada's Grant Connell and Daniel Nestor, and the No. 5 seeds, the Czechs Jiri Novak and Dan Vacek. On paper Goellner and Prinosil should have been a comfortable ride.

Nevertheless it seemed that every Briton left in Atlanta had mustered at court-side in support and they raised a

chant so far unheard at these Games — "Gee-Bee, Gee-Bee". It was almost eerie and perhaps it unsettled Henman, for the Wimbledon quarter-finalist dropped serve to take the Germans the first set and, on another muggy old day, ensure that they would have to sweat it out.

The match almost came to a premature ending in the first game of the second set with Broad 15-40 down on his service. But the partnership recovered to take the second set and move into an attritional third.

In fact it was so tightly balanced that not once was three points scored against the server until the set entered its 17th game, when two punched volleys from Broad gave the Britons a service break.

The 29-year-old Broad, whose Sunderland-born father enabled him to take up the option of a British passport in 1984, had only to hold his serve for the match. But from 30-40 up, he wavered on two points to bring the scores level.

"I was pretty nervous then, but Tim just told me to go for it," he said later. Broad took his partner at face value and rattled off two perfect aces to take the match.

"When you get your opportunities you've just got to take them," said Henman. "When we came out here maybe people didn't expect a medal, but we were hoping to get one. Hopefully, we can go a step further."

Tomorrow, they will play for the chance of gold. Victory would give them Britain's first Olympic tennis title since 1920. On the Stone Mountain that looms behind the courts, are carved the faces of Southern heroes: the generals Robert E Lee and Stonewall Jackson and the Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

If Henman and Broad win gold here, they deserve to go up there alongside them.



Stars and bikes... riders pass a huge American flag in yesterday's road race, an event in which Britain's Max Sciandri went on to win bronze. Report P15 PHOTOGRAPH LIONEL CIRONNEAU

Ainslie still takes silver after mass disqualification

Sailing
Frank Keating

ANOTHER gold-medal chance was forfeited by Britain before even the race started yesterday when,

with eight others, the 19-year-old Cornish sailor Ben Ainslie was disqualified before the gun to begin the deciding Laser-class event on Wassaw Sound off Savannah. Ainslie had instead to settle for silver behind Brazil's Robert Scheidt and ahead of Peer Moberg of Norway. It was even more operati-

cally dramatic and confusing than Saturday night's command performance in the Atlanta stadium by Linford Christie. This time it was not a solo but a collective banishment and it took place on the far-away stage of a surging wind-chopped sea two miles off shore.

Mastolot's telescopes are not provided in the press kit but it seems that after several false starts an exasperated jury hollered "enough" and slung the boats from the race when they again transgressed by jumping the gun.

A black flag had been flown indicating that any premature starters identified would be disqualified from future starts. A large proportion of the 56 boats went over early and the race committee identified Ainslie and Scheidt among the others. This barred them from competing when the race was started on the fifth occasion.

Ainslie had had to beat the South American in this last of the 10-race series. Thus it was an especially highly charged, wave-churning confusion as

the little boats milled and jostled and buzzed about the start line — no one jostling more than the Cornish boy.

To add to the tension Scheidt was on a yellow card — one more technical offence and he would be out of the race altogether. So Ainslie's legitimate harrying and teasing of the Brazilian's boat was a necessity.

Just as Christie had to on Saturday, Ainslie needed a flying start. He could not afford getting up the first beat and having Scheidt sitting in an armchair immediately behind him. The kid had to go for broke. He obviously pushed the jury too far. The Brazilian minded not a jot about the disqualification; it meant the gold was his.

Ainslie sailed to the stake boat wracked with disappointment. Even the fierce zephyrs seemed to die down for a minute, to allow his sail to limp to acknowledge the British sadness all round. But 19! Next serious stop Sydney Harbour 2000. He said, after that, it would be great to go for a British

challenge in the America's Cup. Still his medal had a sheen to it all right. It has been a tremendous week for him and for British sailing all round.

Ainslie's father Rod may be a reasonably rich man as well as being in his own youth a fine long-haul sailor himself but his teenager's dramatic run along the Atlantic nevertheless underlines in boldy colourful crayon the way his sport has thrown off its century-old taint of being the sole preserve of the elite with the loot.

The Royal Yachting Association policy for youth development is that fun must be offered to every child as a priority and then the competitive cream which wants to be serious can come to the top as a bonus.

The evidence of that philosophy is this very good team of youngsters putting in Britain's best all-round show at an Olympic regatta. Crucially there is strength in depth. Two years running Britain has won the Nautica Cup at the World Championships,

the competition of all six disciplines, three each for men and women.

That success has been built on firmly this week and it owes much to 49-year-old Jim Saltonstall, the Yorkshire-born former European champion, who has been a national coach since 1977 and responsible for developing the youth squad.

Almost every one of this Olympic team has been developed from his cadres of callow hopefuls. It is one thing to recognise talent, another to work with and develop it. "We are an island of sports people," says Saltonstall. "So it is obvious a sailing talent is in our very national bones and psyche. The satisfaction has been trying to trigger it again and then develop it."

This is what has happened. In the last decade or so sailing has become broad-based and in so doing has buried once and for all its image of upper-class twittry at Cowes where the main object of the exercise seemed to be run and jolly games under the Solent stars.

BECKSENTRICS

THE FRENCH HAVE FINALLY PERFECTED THE ART OF WAIVE HONOUR. After a year's night prank went horribly wrong, Laurent Ribertin was forced to get married with a leg seat will pinned to his behind. Hadn't anyone told him that the secret to a successful marriage is to put the leg seat down after you have used it?

PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

There's something distastefully voyeuristic about watching Dax Cowart's tortured body writhing and hearing his cries of agony. Take the program out of its educational context and the screen presents a pornography of pain.

Online C2 page 12

Guardian Crossword No 20,720
Set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Astute move for representation (5)
- 4 Under treatment, impart personal depression (5)
- 9 Me and mum work together (4)
- 10 Supporters with lots of hard facts (5,5)
- 11 A gin's knocked back in Greece (5)
- 12 Palmistry manual? (5)
- 13 They struggled to maintain faith in the past (5)
- 16 Key to a sound performance (4)
- 16 Staff employed in cooking (4)
- 17 Pen and fold in an envelope (5)
- 21 Start playing up after industrial action (5,2)
- 22 A unique example of scoring 59 when aiming for a century (3-3)

Down

- 24 Exciting experiences coming — sure to make trouble (10)
- 25 Register to do work on the farm (4)
- 26 Joint may be worn out (5)
- 27 Buns untidy beards (5)
- 1 Earring found on the railway (7)
- 2 Regard sailor with horror? Not half (5)
- 3 Rebuke for raising the railway subsidy (7)
- 5 Mounting a revolt (5)
- 6 Theatrical accounts? (5)
- 7 Carcature in strip (4,3)
- 8 Prince rather upset, having to accept a royal spouse (3,4)
- 14 It's ainful the silly way Grace lies (5)

16 He produces a pass when charged (7)
18 Appear to understand an informal survey (4-3)
19 Gentleman burglar held to raise money for charity (7)
20 Produce rippers (5)
23 Non-striking bonus (5)

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